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THE TIMES 50P

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1997

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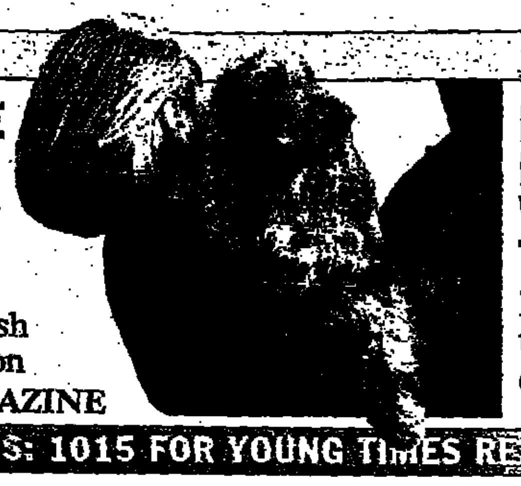

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Police may face Bridgewater trial

Cheers in court for freedom after 18 lost years

By Richard Ford and Stephen Farrell

TWO former police officers may face criminal charges after three men jailed for murdering Carl Bridgewater were freed yesterday amid allegations of "serious, substantial and widespread police malpractice".

The detectives allegedly forged a confession which was instrumental in bringing the men to trial and sending them to prison for 18 years, and yesterday the Crown accepted that newly discovered scientific evidence left the prosecution case "fundamentally flawed."

Tumultuous applause and cheering greeted Vincent Hickey. his cousin Michael and James Robinson as they appeared in the dock at the Court of Appeal. They were released on unconditional bail pending a full hearing in April, when their convictions will almost certainly be quashed. Patrick Molloy, who was convicted with them, died in prison in 1981 still protesting his innocence.

After the hearing, as the Prime Minister said that he expected an inquiry into the original convictions and within the West Midlands police, the men denounced the criminal justice system.

Vincent Hickey, still wearing prison clothes, told a press conference: "Not only have the police been devious and deceitful by keeping innocent men in prison, far worse, after having a child killed, they have deceived Mr and Mrs Bridgewater."

The men's freedom hinged on the discovery this month of scientific evidence proving for the first time the existence of the bogus confession statement, purportedly made by Vincent Hickey but apparently concocted by the police, which Molloy had claimed was used to trick him into admitting the crime. Without Molloy's confession, the Crown would have had no case, Lord Justice Roth said yesterday.

Later, Robinson renewed the attack on the West Midlands police. "It was not a case of one rotten apple in the barrel, they were all rotten. You had to be rotten to get into the barrel. It wasn't about over-zealous policemen thinking they had the right guys, it was a concerted conspiracy."

One of the three officers named in court, Graham Leeke, now works as a security guard. He refused to comment on the Court of Appeal hearing at which the police operation was was branded "dishonest and deceitful". Another of the officers allegedly involved, Detective Constable John Perkins, died two years ago.

Michael Mansfield, QC, for Molloy, said: "It is only a small part of serious substantial and widespread police malpractice involving a number of very high-ranking officers down to the lowest, who must have been involved in what was going on."

He said that the particular ground of Molloy's confession meant that the convictions were unsafe. Lord Justice Roch said that he had no reason to believe the convictions would not be quashed.

After the hearing, Vincent Hickey yesterday paid tribute to his own and Michael Hickey's mothers for the way they campaigned for their release. Robinson said that Anne Skeet and Ann Whelan should be rewarded in the New Year's Honours list. "The problem for the West Midlands police force was that they happened to fit up Ann Whelan's son," he said. "They got a tiger by the tail." Vincent Hickey added: "We are fortunate. Me and Mike have got the best mums in the world."

Robinson said that only Mrs Whelan had kept up their spirits: "That woman there is four foot and she and our solicitor have told people who didn't want to know. They were long lonely years, we have cried with despair and people have looked at us with contempt in their eyes for killing a kid. I am not bitter but I am angry it has taken so long. This is not new evidence, it is stuff that has been there from day one."

Nick Molloy, the son of Patrick Molloy, said: "I feel very sad. It's great to see these men today. I salute the heroes — these men. They have courage, true courage. Look at poor old Hanratty, and Iris Bentley who has just died. If the hang-em-all brigade had had their way, we wouldn't be here today."

Mrs Whelan was glad that the battle was over, but she remained angry that the men had suffered years of mental and physical abuse. "I was very much on my own for years," she said. "But I just fought and fought and fought. The worst time was when people refused to listen. The authorities knew they were innocent, but they didn't want to hear. There is still a lot of fighting to be done, but Michael now needs time to think."

Ordeal of freedom, page 6
Detective silent, page 7
Leading article, page 23

JAMES HORTON

Freedom at last: Ann Whelan (left) hugs her son Michael Hickey outside the High Court. Beside them are Anne Skeet with her son Vincent Hickey and Jimmy Robinson

Key evidence was hidden for years

By Richard Ford and Stephen Farrell

THE crucial evidence that led to the release of the Bridgewater Three lay undiscovered in their files for seven years until their solicitor found it two weeks ago.

A confession statement by Patrick Molloy taken in Wombourne police station in December 1978 was subjected to Electrostatic Document Analysis (Esda) by the forensic scientists Robert Radley and Dr Anthony Hardcastle in 1990. But they found no sign that the statement had been tampered with. Esda can show if documents have been tampered with or reveal impressions left from earlier sheets of paper — technology not available when the men were sentenced — but the only imprints the scientists found were consistent with those that one would expect to find on a document taken from a stack of witness statments.

"They found impressions of a familiar caption which one finds at the beginning of every statement under caution. There was nothing in the least surprising about finding that there,"Jeremy Roberts, QC, for the Crown, said yesterday.

Most of the imprints had disappeared with handling over the years, but a few words were protected by the exhibit label on the front page. They showed that the statement whose imprint appeared on the document had been in the name of Vincent Hickey and carried his signature.

Molloy, whose confession was crucial to the conviction of all the men, has always insisted that he was tricked into his admission when the police showed him a confession allegedly made by Hickey.

What Radley and Hardcastle did not know was that Hickey was interviewed in Redditch police station, 25 miles away from Molloy, and any statement he made could not have been written on the same pad as Molloy's.

The importance of the

Continued on page 7, col 8

Anger as German paper refers to 'the Jew Rifkind'

By Roger Boyes in Berlin and Philip Webster

A GERMAN newspaper which is closely aligned to Helmut Kohl, yesterday stood by its description of the Foreign Secretary as "the Jew Rifkind" and the writer of the article expressed amazement that the words could have been interpreted as a slur.

As a storm of protest greeted the remark in the solemn *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, its author defended her choice of words. "Is it an insult in English to call somebody a Jew?" Michaela Wiegel, the newspaper's 28-year-old specialist on European affairs, asked. "I am mortified that anyone could have read it like this."

The Prime Minister was urged to lodge a complaint after MPs from all parties branded the description of Malcolm Rifkind by the paper as an insult to him and to the country.

The offending words came at the end of an even-handed account of Mr Rifkind's speech to the Konrad Adenauer Institute in Bonn: "As if he was not completely convinced by his own words, the Jew Rifkind concluded — ironically, apologetically — with a quote from Luther, delivered in German, 'Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.'"

Mr Rifkind's Foreign Office speechwriters used the words to underline the force of the Foreign Secretary's convictions. But the newspaper read the quotation differently: as a coded protest against the words (urging Germany to abandon its federal European ambitions) that he had just spoken.

Ms Wiegel said. "I was only trying to underline how surprising it was that somebody who is Jewish should quote the leading German Protestant reformer."

Mr Rifkind's family left Lithuania in 1899.

Although the use of the expression "the Jew" is not as jarring in German as in English, nonetheless it has a strange ring, especially for older readers. Nazi newspapers in the 1930s prefaced almost any description of leading liberal politicians with "the Jew" even if the person had long ago abandoned his religion.

"The point of course is that Mr Rifkind, even when quoting Martin Luther, was speaking as British Foreign Secretary and not as a Jew, Catholic or Buddhist," said a senior British official who attended the lecture. "The real question is why [the newspaper] allowed such a phrase to stay in their columns."

At least two of the newspaper's board of publishers are regarded as tough conservatives who can on occasion be deeply critical of British politics and the British media. A year ago the newspaper pub

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Times man wins top BBC award

Sam Kiley, Africa correspondent of *The Times*, was named Foreign Correspondent of the Year yesterday at the BBC's *What the Paper's Say Awards*. Mr Kiley, 32, who joined *The Times* as a trainee in 1987, was commended for his reports from Rwanda. The judges praised "the chastening clarity of his reports from one of the world's least manageable zones" .... Page 2

Smuggler jailed

The pregnant daughter of a prominent businessman was jailed for 11 years yesterday for trying to smuggle cocaine worth £400,000 into Britain. Sara Westwood, 23, wept as Judge Oppenheimer told her she had taken part in a "disgusting and terrible" trade .... Page 3

Surrey go into bat under floodlights

By Simon Wilde

ONE-DAY cricket is about to undergo a revolution in England if, as expected, proposals by Surrey are approved by the English Cricket Board.

Surrey, the third oldest county club in the country, whose patron is The Queen and whose most noted supporter is the Prime Minister, want to change their name to the Surrey Lions, play pop music between overs and stage a match under floodlights in the Sunday 40-overs league. They expect other clubs to follow suit.

The inspiration came from David Gilbert, the club's coach, who has seen similar marketing ploys used to good effect in his native Australia. Surrey won the league title last year and saw their home attendances rise from 4,000 to nearly 10,000 and they believe that they have the team to attract larger crowds still.

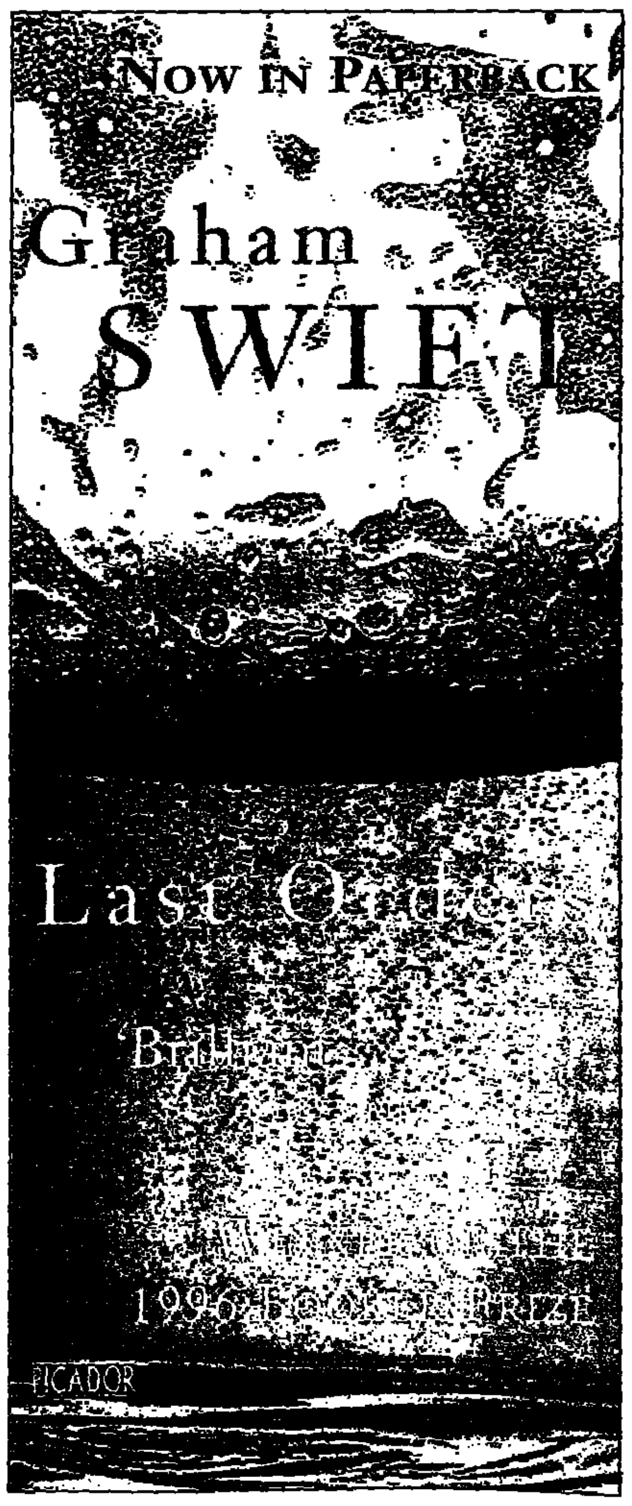
"We have spent the winter researching and planning means of attracting a wider audience to limited overs cricket," Paul Sheldon, Surrey's chief executive, said yesterday. "The current Surrey team, brimming with internationals, is highly marketable and our new initiatives will give young supporters an easy means of identifying with their heroes."

For their plans to stage the first floodlit match between first-class counties, at the Oval on Wednesday, June 26, Surrey have already received the ECB's blessing. Their opponents will be Nottinghamshire, who agreed to the fixture being brought forward by four days and to the county championship match, due to start that day, being postponed for 48 hours.

The game would probably start at 5pm and finish at 10. The floodlights would be switched on when necessary, depending on the weather.

Although the prospect of the defending champions meeting last year's league runners-up should be an enticing prospect, Surrey had originally approached Yorkshire but they declined the floodlit fixture. The Nottinghamshire match clashes with the first week of Wimbledon tennis but Surrey hope to attract an attendance approaching the ground capacity of 17,000.

Alec Stewart, Surrey's captain, who is with the England touring team in New Zealand, said: "I think one-day cricket should be jazzed up. We want to attract more people."



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BALLOT 97

Your essential guide to the key election issues

On Monday: Welfare reform

Significant shift by Labour leftwinger

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

WHEN the history of new Labour is written, David Blunkett's Birmingham lecture, in which he rejected the socialist principle of redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor, will be regarded as a key landmark in the abandonment of "old" Labour.

What was so interesting about this particular speech was the explicit terms in which he rejected cash transfers as the means to reduce social divisions. Even Gordon Brown, the leading ideologist of new Labour, has been more guarded in expressing this view.

Just as significant as the content is that Mr Blunkett's roots are on the Labour left, among the strongest supporters of the views that he now rejects. It was hardly surprising that his former allies on the Tribune left were the most vocal in attacking his lecture, and his most prominent defender was Frank Field, who has been outspoken in urging a new approach.

Redistribution from wealthy to poor through the tax and benefits system has been a central Labour programme for most of this century, reflected in a series of measures extending welfare provision. But the resistance of skilled workers to paying higher taxes played a part in Labour's defeat in 1979 and voters' worries over its tax plans have ensured that the party has remained in opposition. Mr Blunkett acknowledged that the world has changed dramatically so this approach would no longer work. "In 1992, the British people rejected the notion that government should claw back cash in order to transfer that cash to others through pension and child benefit changes which they could not see as being directly beneficial to themselves and their families ... Cash transfers are no longer an option, either politically or economically, in the way envisaged 50 or 100 years ago. The international money markets, the electronic transfer of funds, and the aspiration of a massively growing middle class, make the realities very different from a bygone era," he said.

Instead of this redistributive approach, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary argued that "the only way of enabling people to rise out of poverty and disadvantage, is by enabling them to earn their own living, to be adequately rewarded, and to have the opportunity to succeed". Hence, his emphasis on education and training, self-help and self-reliance. This is a long way from the Tory approach since it still implies an activist government. But it is not socialism as it has been defined by every Labour leader up to Tony Blair and is still advocated by many of Mr Blunkett's Shadow Cabinet colleagues.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour plans to send Blair video to new voters

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is taking his general election campaign directly into tens of thousands of homes with a starring role in the first video general election broadcast.

The video, which is under lock and key at Labour Party headquarters, will be sent unsolicited to carefully targetted first-time and floating voters in 80 marginal seats. It is the first time the technique has been tried in a British election campaign and is further evidence of the increasingly sophisticated vote-seeking operation by the major political parties.

Labour strategists have already christened the film, Blair the Video, in a reference to the Hugh Hudson party political broadcast of Neil and Glenys Kinnock. The broadcast, which became known as Kinnock the Movie in the 1987 general election, was such a success it was repeated during the campaign.

Conservative Central Office, momentarily thrown on to the defensive by the latest innovation by the Labour campaign team, hit back. An official said last night "We welcome it. We have a different name for it. It will be a Nightmare on Blair street. The more people exposed to Tony Blair the better for us."

The Tories have no such plans to put Mr Major on a personal video. They are putting him on a soapbox instead. "We think the tried and tested methods of political debate are much more effective," the official added.

John Major will open up a new election front today by pledging the appointment of "hit squads" to force the sale of empty council homes. Government inspectors would go to council housing departments which have more than 3 per cent of their housing stock vacant, and order the sale of all homes which have been empty for more than a year. The plan, modelled on that for sending in inspectors to take over failing schools, is likely to feature in the Tory manifesto to highlight the alleged housing failures of Labour-run councils. The Prime Minister will be speaking at a Tory local government rally in Birmingham.

But Labour is undaunted by the criticism. The film, which will be accompanied by a letter from Mr Blair addressed to the individual target voters, is thought to have cost at least £100,000. It has been produced in conjunction with BMP, the party's advertising agency. The party is waging the most high-tech election campaign so far having created a web site on the Internet and satellite links. Mr Blair has also taken part in teleconference phone-ins.

A Labour strategist said: "We are now developing the use of videos which can be interactive with CD-roms. The Blair video is the culmination of our efforts. We will target 80 marginal seats with the video. They are the seats where the Tory and Liberal Democrat support is soft and we think the seat is up for grabs. the video is about transmitting a positive message from Tony Blair into people's living rooms."

The strategy is also intended to improve Mr Blair's personal standing with women voters after some opinion poll research suggested that mature women thought John Major was more sincere.

☐ Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, announced a six-point plan to improve patient care and increase rewards for nurses to reduce the numbers leavuing the health service. He planned to introduce more flexible working hours, long-term job security and better pay in return for extra training. He also proposed to end local pay bargaining and extend the opportunities to prescribe drugs.

☐ An election roadshow intended to focus politicians' attention on the voting power of Britain's ten million old age pensioners was launched outside the House of Commons. Age Concern's campaign message is "Age counts. Ten million older voters could make the difference."

MARTIN BEDDALL

The late Veronica Guerin's son with Russell Davies

Guerin is named journalist of year

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VERONICA GUERIN, crime correspondent for the Irish *Sunday Independent*, who was killed last June, was named Journalist of the Year yesterday. The *What the Papers Say* award was collected by her son, Cathal, aged seven, and her husband Graham Turley.

In a tribute to his mother delivered with extraordinary composure, Cathal said: "I am very honoured to accept this wonderful award on behalf of my wonderful mum ... this award I will cherish for ever. Thank you very much indeed." Russell Davies introduced the awards.

The awards were presented by Tony Blair at the Savoy Hotel in London. *The Guardian* won the Newspaper of the Year award. The judges commended the paper's investigations such as those into the relationship between the Tory MP Neil Hamilton and the lobbyist Ian Greer. The Scoop of the Year Award went to Peter Hounam, a freelance reporter who obtained leaked details of tha 1996 Budget.

Francis Wheen, of *The Guardian*, was named Columnist of the Year; Polly Toynbee, of *The Independent* won the Commentator of the Year award. Brian Viner, television critic at the *Mail on Sunday*, won the Peter Black Award for Broadcasting Writer of the Year. The Gerald Barry Award for a career's achievement went to Sir John Junor, who edited the *Sunday Express* for 32 years.

Award for Times man, page 1

Bullying case settled by Army

A former lieutenant who claimed she was driven out of the Army by bullies yesterday won a personal apology from the Ministry of Defence. Alisa Cook, from Winchester, whose claim centred on a year with the 39 field regiment based in Paderborn, also won an out-of-court settlement, believed to be several thousand pounds, three days before she was due to be the first woman officer to sue the Army for sexual discrimination at an industrial tribunal. She said she was locked in a shower room while CS gas pellets were set off. The Army has not admitted liability for discrimination or harassment.

Bug toll rises

A fourth person who ate traditional haggis at a Burns Supper at Roberton village hall near Hawick in the Scottish Borders on February 7 has been confirmed as suffering from the lethal *E. coli 0157* bacterium. The latest victim takes the total number of confirmed cases in the area to six.

Link ruled out

Police seeking the killer of Billie-Jo Jenkins have discounted the possibility that one of the suspects is the man wanted for the murder of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan in Kent. A man, 36, was released on police bail yesterday after being questioned about the murder of Billie-Jo, 13, in Hastings.

Pupil stabbed

A 15-year-old boy is critically ill after being stabbed in the corridor of his school by another pupil. Darren Hopper, a pupil at Heathfield High School in Congleton, Cheshire, was attacked during break time. Cheshire Police said that a 14-year-old pupil had been detained and was awaiting interview.

Yorks' ski trip

The Duke and Duchess of York, who were divorced last year, are spending the weekend together at the Swiss ski resort of Verbier with their children Beatrice, eight, and Eugenie, aged six. The Duchess has been staying at a friend's chalet on a half-term break, and her ex-husband flew there last night.

CORRECTION

Changes in Army manpower announced on Thursday (report, yesterday), which will increase the size of the Parachute Regiment but reduce overall manning by 600, will save, not cost, up to £15 million a year.

Hard-up Lib Dems hope that voters will follow the van

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats are too poor to pay for a national advertising campaign before election day. They have spent half of their £2.5 million fighting fund already and will be able to afford only very limited advertising in regional media covering their target seats.

Their financial plight was underlined yesterday when Paddy Ashdown unveiled a new Liberal Democrat campaign poster in London. It was pasted to a billboard-carrying van that was hired for £2,000 and had to be back at the rental company's Oxfordshire headquarters by last night.

The party spent another £2,000 on producing two copies of the poster — one for each side of the van — although the design work was done for nothing by a "creative team" of Liberal Democrat supporters. After a photocall at 10.30am, the van was driven back to Oxfordshire via some target seats in London in the hope that the poster would be spotted by potential Liberal Democrat voters.

Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the Liberal Democrats' election campaign chairman, admitted: "For those who know Macbeth, it is the Birnam Wood approach."

The Tories have spent an estimated £5 million on their latest poster campaign alone.

The Liberal Democrats estimate that by polling day they will have spent a total of £5 million on nationally coordinated campaigning in the past five years. They cannot afford to rent any billboard sites, nor will they be sending leaflets or newsletters through the post to voters in target seats. They will rely on activists pounding the pavements.

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'Jew Rifkind' anger

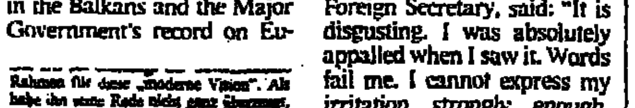
Continued from page 1

lished a long front-page commentary criticising *The Times* and *The Guardian* for blaming an arson attack on a foreigners' hostel on neo-Nazis. Other commentaries have sharply attacked British policy in the Balkans and the Major Government's record on Europe. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, however, has no record of anti-Semitism: indeed, not even the very far-right fringe press dares to criticise Jews. But it seems clear that the sensitivity of German journalistic language is changing. This is particularly apparent in sports coverage where chauvinistic phrasing, regarded as taboo only a couple of years ago, increasingly slips into radio and television reports of international matches.

Although ministers declined to become embroiled, senior MPs were furious. Gerald Kaufman, the former Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "It is disgusting. I was absolutely appalled when I saw it. Words fail me. I cannot express my irritation strongly enough. The Prime Minister should do something about it.

"A member of the British Government has been attacked in a German newspaper and I find that appalling."

Sir Ivan Lawrence, the Tory MP and a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "The Germans ought to apologise without being asked. It stirs up our worst forebodings about closer political union with Germany. I expect John Major will demand an apology."



Rahmen für diese „moderne Vision". Als habe ihn seine Rede nicht ganz überzeugt, schloß der Jude Rifkind – wörtlich apologetisch – mit dem deutsch hervorgebrachten Lutherwort: „Hier stehe ich, ich kann nicht anders"

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Businessman's daughter weeps as judge condemns 'disgusting, terrible' crime

Pregnant drug smuggler sentenced to 11 years

By Kathryn Knight

THE pregnant daughter of a prominent businessman was jailed for 11 years yesterday for trying to smuggle cocaine worth £400,000 into Britain.

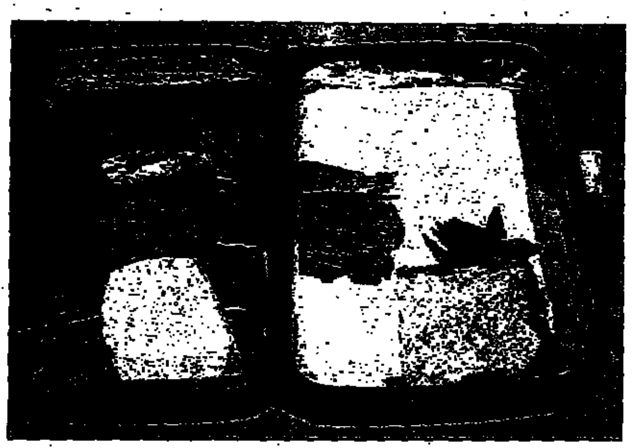
Sara Westwood, 23, whose father is Roger Westwood, the managing director of financial company Hogg Robinson, wept as Judge Oppenheimer told her she had taken part in a "disgusting and terrible" trade that led to destruction and death. Her parents and two sisters, who attended every day of her two-and-a-half-week trial, sat in shock as she was sentenced.

Westwood was caught as she brought more than two kilograms of cocaine hidden in the false bottom of her suitcase through the green channel at Heathrow airport last April. She was part of a "large and sophisticated" ring of smugglers, which included three accomplices who were sentenced alongside her yesterday at Isleworth Crown Court.

The court was told Westwood had accepted a free holiday to Trinidad last year and had stayed at a Holiday Inn in the capital, Port of Spain. On April 8, police at Tobago airport watched as she checked in a suitcase. Some distance behind her, Anthony Walker, an accomplice, was carrying a similar case. The two ignored each other but were later seen talking.

They were shadowed by Lanceford Wallace and Cedric Edwards, both from Lewisham, southeast London, who acted as minders to see the bags safely into Britain. Westwood and Walker tried to disguise their route to Britain by travelling from Trinidad via Frankfurt but police had already been alerted and sniffer dogs at Frankfurt airport discovered the 4.6 kg of cocaine divided between Westwood's and Walker's suitcases.

Roger Westwood and his wife Susan attended every day of their daughter's trial. She smuggled cocaine into Britain in the suitcase below



The group were followed to Heathrow airport, where Customs officers arrested them.

Giving evidence, Westwood told the court that she had had no idea that there were drugs in the suitcase, which was packed by someone else while she was in the shower.

While in the Caribbean, the court was told, she had written a postcard to her best friend talking of "Geezers, gear, gorgeous gals and big ones".

Westwood was convicted last month after pleading not guilty. Yesterday in mitigation her counsel, Bernard Phelvin, said that she was a gullible and foolish girl who was easily led and had found it difficult to make friends. "She was a lonely and desperate asthmatic child, finding it difficult to make friends perhaps in the way that teenagers and children do. Compromising her values was a way to achieve what popularity she could among her friends because of her background."

He said she had "dropped out" at a fairly early age and had also suffered violent abuse from her boyfriend: "Throughout this, those who are near to her have been and will be deeply affected by these matters.

"They have nevertheless stayed by her throughout. If it is possible at all not wholly to crush her spirit and destroy her personality, that is the course the court should take."

Judge Oppenheimer said he had taken into account her personal circumstances at the time she was lured into the smuggling trade. "In particular, I have considered your personal history, your background, the abusive relationships that you had had before this offence was committed and the depression that you suffered," he said.

Nonetheless, he said, she was a "knowing" courier. He sentenced Tony Walker, 31, who pleaded guilty, to seven years in prison. Lanceford Wallace, 25, and Cedric Edwards, 34, were jailed for 12 years and 11 years respectively.

Westwood's mother Susan wept as her daughter was led away. The Westwoods have always maintained their daughter's innocence and say she was unknowingly lured into smuggling.

Westwood was educated at St Joseph's Convent School for Girls in Reading, Berkshire, which pledges to help girls "grow to maturity as Christians". She passed nine GCSEs but left aged 16.

WAYNE STARR

Ex-convent girl Sara Westwood: claimed she was duped into carrying drugs

When she married in her late teens, her father gave his blessing and threw a huge white wedding for her. She started training to become a nurse but gave it up when she became pregnant with her son Rees in 1994. Shortly afterwards her marriage collapsed and the couple separated in 1995.

Westwood then went to live in a £70-a-week bedsit in Reading. Soon she was mixing with the crowd that was to lead to her downfall.

Her parents are now looking after their grandson at the family home in Sulham, Berkshire. After the verdict was announced last month, Mr Westwood told journalists he believed his daughter was the innocent dupe of others. He said: "Sometimes naive, silly, headstrong and feckless, yes; but her main problem is that she has always been too trusting of the wrong type of people. Personally I have no doubt that she was taken advantage of." He and his family were too upset to comment after the sentence.

French girls vanish on day trip to London

By Lin Jenkins

THE distraught families of two French girls were helping to search West End streets in London yesterday in the hope of spotting the 16-year-olds, who went missing during a day trip from their home village.

The girl's visit on Wednesday was their first trip away from Grenay, near Lille. Police are worried that they may have been held against their will, but hope that the reason may prove less sinister. The attractions of the capital may have prompted them to miss the coach home. An incident room has been set up in Earls Court Road.

Laetitia Ranson and Anjelique Wozniak speak only a smattering of English. They had £10 each and no change of clothes when they failed to catch the coach home from Hanover Square. They were last seen about 4pm, window-shopping in Oxford Circus.

Marie-Christine Wozniak, 39, her husband Noel, 44, and their neighbours Jeanine, 43, and Jacky Ranson, 48, came to London on Thursday night. Mr Wozniak said: "We can't stop thinking about them. We wish to get out and walk the streets just to find our daughters."

A police spokesman said: "We are very concerned about them. They have never gone missing before and to deliberately run off would be out of character. We hope they just wanted to carry on with their adventure, but they may have been picked up by some of the unscrupulous people who watch for stray youngsters."

The girls are not thought to have fallen out with their families, nor did they have English boyfriends or penfriends that they might have tried to visit. Both girls are white, about 5ft 2ins and fairly heavily built. Laetitia has shoulder-length black hair, while Anjelique has silver-blond hair and wears glasses.

Nigerians free Briton held for eight weeks

By Shirley English

A BRITISH accountant imprisoned for eight weeks in Nigeria without charge was expected home today after intense diplomatic pressure ended his ordeal.

Bruce Henderson, 42, was released wearing the same clothes he wore when he was arrested by Nigerian military police in December on suspicion of spying as he attempted to cross the border from Cameroon. He was expected to fly out of Lagos last night to be reunited with his wife and three children in Aberdeenshire.

The British High Commission in Lagos reported that he seemed to be in good health. He told officials that he had been treated well during his detention.

Last night Mr Henderson told the BBC: "I am delighted to be free and I am grateful to those who helped to sustain me during this difficult time and those who have worked very hard to secure my release."

Hopes had risen last Friday that he would be freed, but were dashed. From the time of his arrest he was refused access to consular officials.

Mr Henderson's wife Carol, 38, speaking from the family home in Chapel of Garioch, near Inverurie, said: "I'm so happy. I can't believe it — it has come from nowhere. After all the disappointment of the last week, it's wonderful."

Mrs Henderson was told by the Foreign Office at 11am yesterday that her husband was free and she was able to speak to him for the first time in almost two months, by telephone to the High Commission in Lagos. "He said he was well. He is very confused, but is looking forward to coming home. He was really surprised when I told him about how much the case had been in the news. He had no idea about the publicity," she said.

"We built up our hopes so much last week and then had such a huge let-down. I really wasn't expecting anything to happen so soon."

She immediately broke the good news to the couple's children, Moira, 12, Craig, ten and Lindsay, seven.

Mr Henderson had been working in Cameroon since last July as the financial controller at Korup National Park. He was employed as an accountant by Hunting Technical Services, of Hemel Hempstead. When he was arrested, he was crossing the border into Nigeria to visit friends in Port Harcourt.

Speaking by telephone yesterday to his employer, Tom Boyd, a director at Hunting Technical Services, Mr Henderson said that he had been travelling with a Nigerian businessman by boat through the Bakassi peninsula, when he and his companion were arrested. "The military police thought he might be a security risk to Nigeria having travelled through an area disputed by the two countries," Mr Boyd said.

John Wattam, at the British High Commission in Lagos, said Mr Henderson had seen a doctor and had been debriefed by officials.

BT told to put call girls back on line

BT WAS ordered yesterday to reconnect the telephone lines of prostitutes who leave cards in phone kiosks advertising their services. The telecommunications company had joined forces with other telephone providers and Westminster City Council, central London, last August to block calls to numbers listed on the cards.

The action was aimed at preventing prostitutes plastering booths with the cards, which often included explicit details. But the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) ruled that the agreement between the telephone providers breached competition laws because it had not been registered in advance.

David Greene, solicitor for the London Committee of Call Girls, said: "BT appears willing to do as it pleases in relation to customers and their rights."

A BT spokesman described the ruling as a blip and said that the company would resume disconnections soon after registering its policy with the OFT.

Protest led by inventor's daughter halts £1m sale of Marconi archive

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PLANS to auction the Marconi collection of historic documents and artefacts from the early days of radio have been shelved after protests led by Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi-Giovanelli.

GEC-Marconi has reconsidered its decision to sell the collection at Christie's next month and the auction house has suspended printing of the catalogue. The company chose to sell the collection after deciding that building a museum to store and display it would cost far more than it was worth. The sale was expected to raise £1 million.

Opposition to the sale quickly grew in a flurry of letters to *The Times*. The principal criticism was that an auction would disperse the collection and make it inaccessible to scholars and the public.

An alternative to dispersal involving the Science Museum and perhaps other museums is now being discussed, with those close to the negotiations confident that a solution can be reached. Princess Marconi-Giovanelli, who is in England to continue the campaign to keep the collection in Britain, has met Sir Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, and yesterday visited Chelmsford in Essex, where her father established the Marconi company to exploit his patents. She had a meeting at the offices of the borough council and later visited the GEC-Marconi plant.

She said: "The Science Museum is being very helpful. I am hoping that everything will go well, thanks to the pressure of opinion against the sale. My father's equipment belongs to England, and that is where it should stay."

The Science Museum and GEC issued a statement after the first meeting, saying that they believed that a basis existed for a solution "which will ensure that the Marconi Collection remains intact and in this country." Another statement was promised once further progress had been achieved, "when the company would expect to be in a position to withdraw the collection from public sale". That is not expected for a week or two.

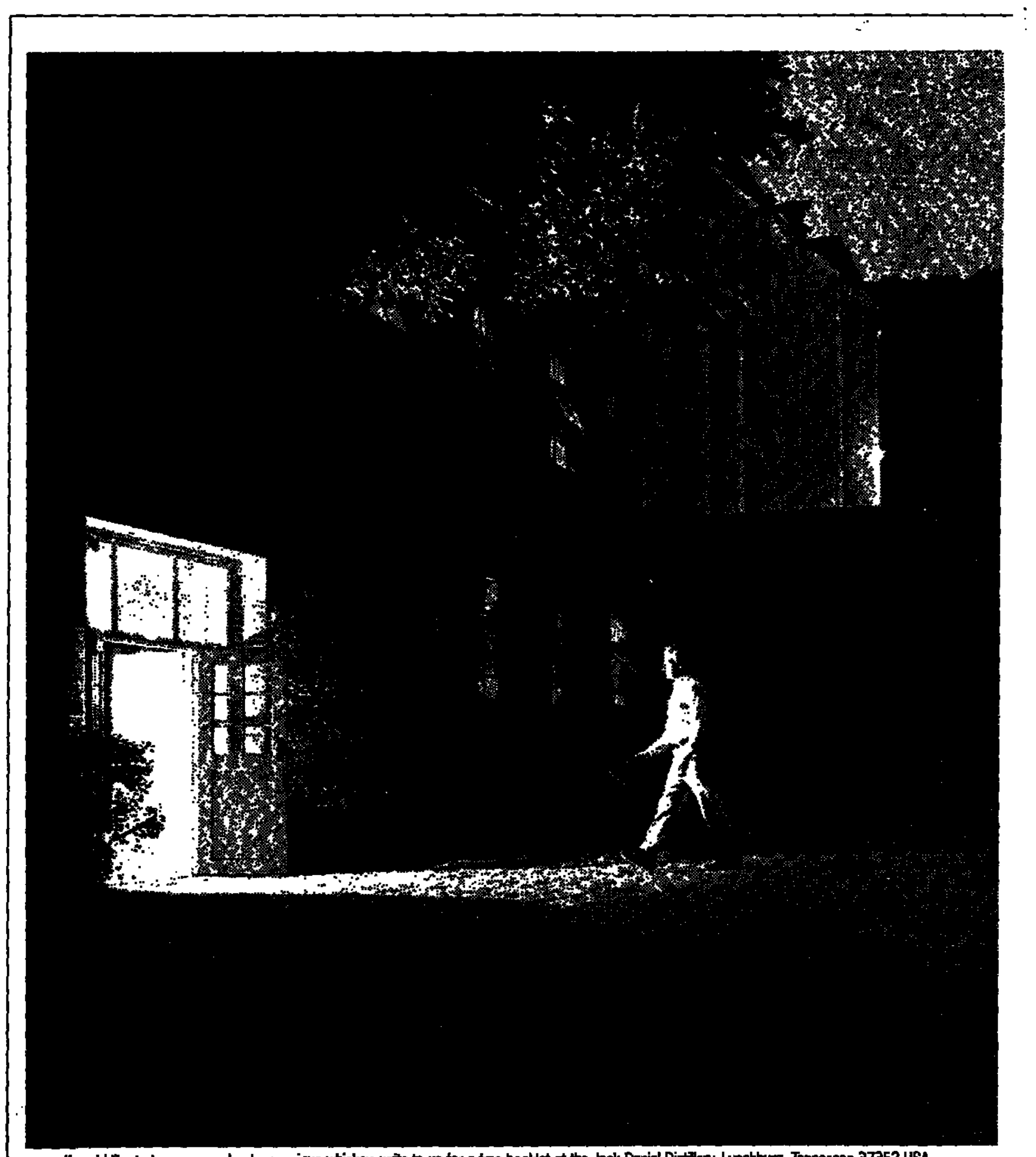
Princess Elettra: campaigning in Britain

Any solution short of selling the collection is likely to involve the injection of money from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Christie's, which has already spent time cataloguing the collection, will need to be reimbursed.

Guglielmo Marconi came to Britain as a young man in 1896, after carrying out successful radio experiments in his parents' home in Italy. He was supported by the Post Office and within a few years had demonstrated long-range transmission of radio waves.

The collection owned by GEC-Marconi has been stored at Chelmsford for many years. Documents include "Marconigrams" sent by the doomed liner *Titanic* as it sank in the north Atlantic after hitting an iceberg in 1912. The final message read: "Sinking. We are putting passengers off in small boats. Weather clear."

The invention of radio is a confusing subject. Several scientists demonstrated the transmission of radio waves, but none was able to commercialise the invention until Marconi arrived from Bologna. His success was rapid, with the first radio signals being sent across the English Channel in 1898, and across the Atlantic in 1901. He won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909.



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Catwalk kittens take controversy in their stride

Uniform appearance: Eva Arnold, left, and Charlene O'Haire dressed in their school clothes

By Dareh Gregorian
and Grace Bradberry

SCHOOLGIRLS who will star in Vivienne Westwood's fashion show tomorrow — one of them as young as 13 — are not letting controversy wear them down.

While Lady Olga Maitland, the MP and a sponsor of the Conservative Family Campaign, said that 20 girls aged 13 to 17 acting as models was "frankly not right", 15-year-old Eva Arnold maintained there was no cause for alarm.

While some of Ms Westwood's designs were, Eva agreed, "quite raunchy", the clothes in which she would appear for the start of London Fashion Week were not. Ms Westwood, who is known for provocative designs, including rubber skirts and fake-fur G-strings, will feature the girls in a mock debutantes' ball at the Dorchester.

The girls were recruited from model agencies and two drama schools, the Sylvia Young Theatre School and The Arts Educational School, London.

Charlotte, the 13-year-old, is a professional model chosen from the books of Spirit Model Agency, which also represents Jodie Kidd, whose extremely thin appearance caused comment two years ago.

Jonathan Phang, who manages Charlotte and Jodie Kidd, said: "The reason I'm letting her do this show is because all the girls who are doing it are young."

Eva's fellow pupils from The Arts Educational School, Sarah Watkins, 17, and Charlene O'Haire, 16, said there was no need for controversy. Eva's mother Lynn said that she was delighted Eva was in the show, although she admitted that she had had some worries.

"It's a concern when your daughter is quite young," Mrs Arnold said. "My main concern is that it focuses on image more than spirit and soul. Young people are under a terrible pressure when it comes to image. But I trust Eva. I think she's sensible."

Westwood's show comes after complaints that the fashion industry exploits schoolgirls. Lady Olga, MP for Sutton and Cheam, said: "I totally disapprove of young girls being used for this kind of show. To abuse teenagers because they look innocent is frankly not right. There are perfectly suitable adult models, so there is just no need for this. I think it's quite awful."

Wayne Hemingway, the chairman and founder of the fashion company Red Or Dead, which is also showing at the fashion week, said: "It's a question of where you draw the line. I think the collection that Vivienne is showing is for young people, and so using young models is perfectly all right. The only time there would be a problem is if young girls were wearing clothes that were sexy or exposing flesh or midriff."

Leila Cerullo, a spokeswoman for the Ms Westwood, said: "We're not putting the girls into the show to cause a sensation. We want to prove a point that a young girl can look chic and sophisticated. Young people love to dress like rebels, but they all wind up dressing like each other. These days, looking prim is rebellious." Miss Cerullo said the girls would wear "lovely tailored suits".

However, Westwood's managing director, the Italian businessman Carlo D'Amario, said: "The collection is very sexy. What else do you expect of Vivienne?"

For the audition, the girls of The Arts Educational School were asked to wear dance leotards and to walk the length of the school hall. Brenda Gray, the school's registrar, said the show's organisers wanted girls between the ages of 14 and 18. "They wanted tall, slim, typical English rose types. As long as the clothing is suitable, it will be a good experience for them."

Vivienne Westwood made her name in the 1970s, when she and her partner Malcolm McLaren opened a boutique.

SIMON WALKER

Role models: Eva and Charlene sampling Vivienne Westwood outfits at Liberty's in central London

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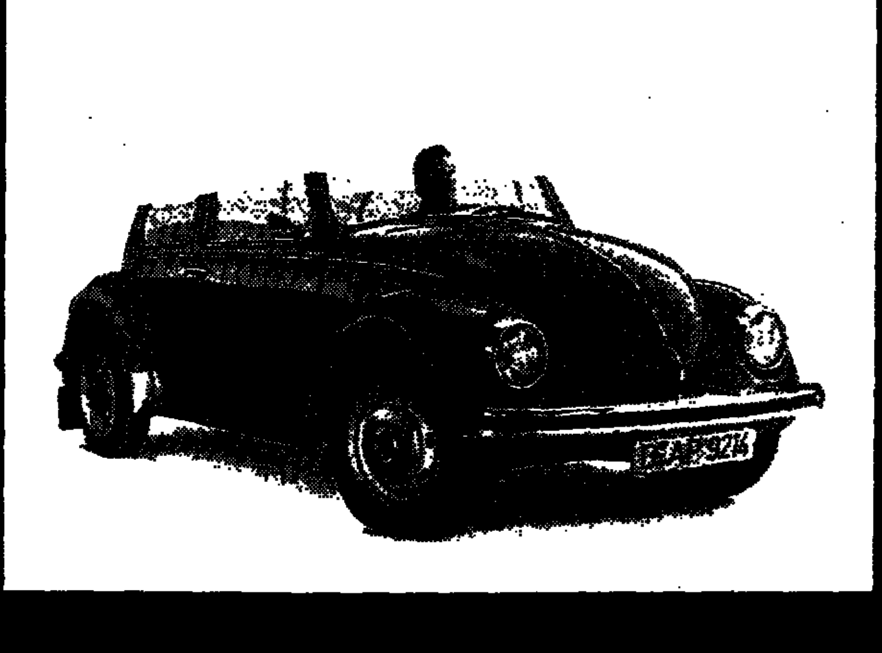

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Water experts demand a ban on new homes

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

WATER resources are so stretched that no more houses should be built in part of the South and East of Britain, experts in the industry said yesterday.

Ray Tennant, chairman of the Water Companies Association, insisted the projected need for 4.4 million new households by 2016 could prove a disaster in areas such as Hampshire, east and west Sussex, Kent and East Anglia.

"Certainly in areas like East and West Sussex we will find it difficult to supply new townships. There are no major rivers and most water comes from boreholes in the South Downs which are being fully exploited," he said. The Association will be objecting to future schemes and were already holding urgent talks with county planning chiefs across southern England.

Mr Tennant, who is a director of Mid Southern and South East Water, said projects were already in the pipeline which were causing alarm. "There are proposals for a township of 10,000 properties between Lewis and Eastbourne. In north Hampshire there are plans for a new town," he said.

"Every new home needs one, two, maybe three toilets, a new garden and a new car that needs washing."

The fears over the Government's new household projections come in advance of a meeting on Monday, organised by the WCA, which represents the smaller water supply firms. The meeting is aimed at solving Britain's water problems into the next century.

"We cannot run businesses the way we are at the moment, constantly on the edge of a crisis," said Mr Tennant. The meeting has secured the backing of the Environment Agency, environmental groups who fear Britain's wetlands and rivers are being run dry by a combination of heavy abstraction and surging demand, and all 27 of the water companies in England and Wales.

It follows several dry years and forecasts that global warming will make water even more scarce.

Mike Walker, the WCA's head of policy, said that the time had come to draft a national strategy which balanced the the interest of consumers, government, green groups and water companies. The WCA also wants a study into the need for new reservoirs and underground storage systems.

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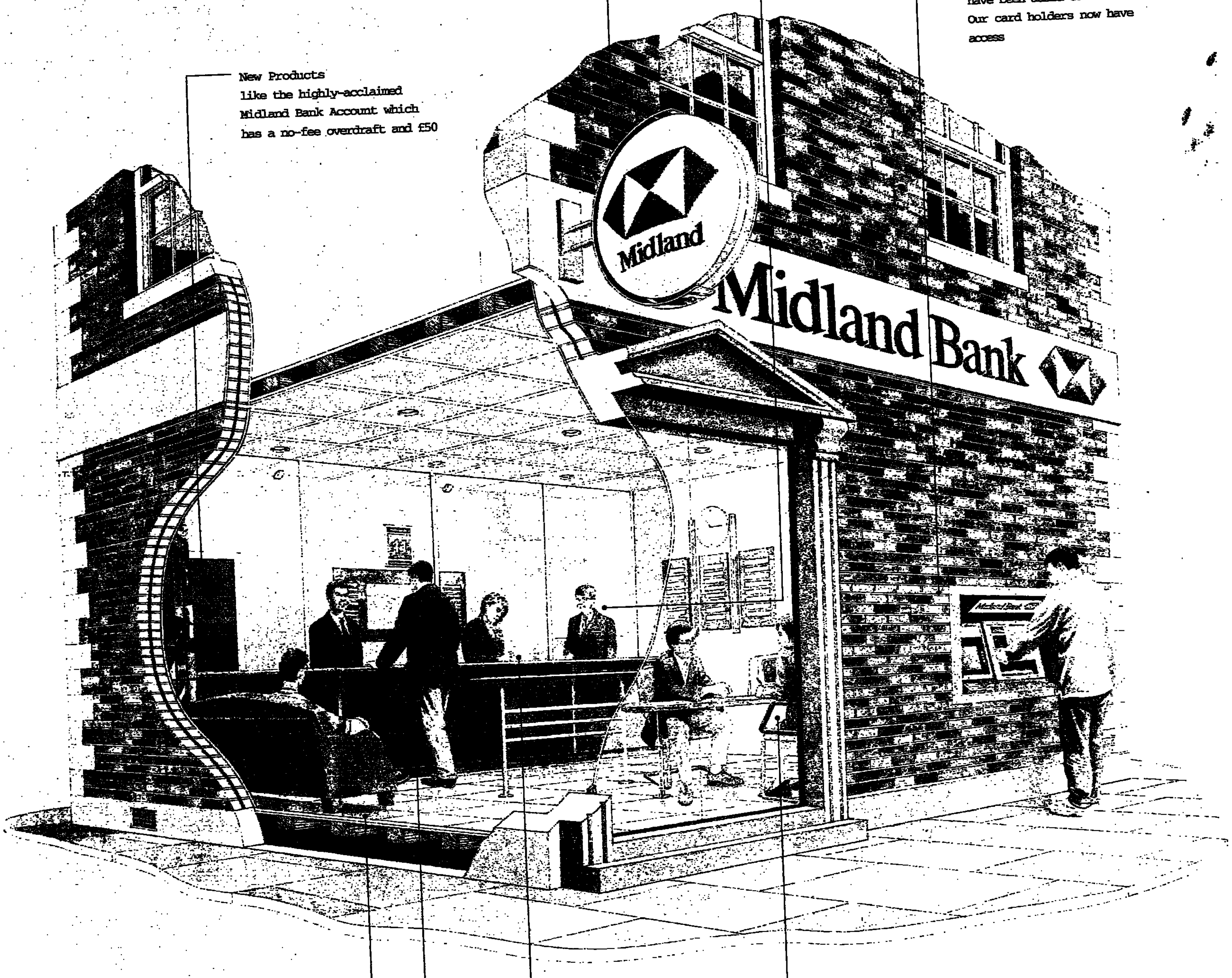

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Man wrongly jailed for Birmingham pub bombing warns of the 'terrible trauma of normal life'

Now released men face the ordeal of freedom

By Carol Midgley and Stephen Farrell

THE Bridgewater Three may feel jubilation now but the problems of freedom are only just beginning, members of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four said yesterday.

Paddy Hill, 53, who served 17 years in prison after being wrongly convicted for the IRA Birmingham pub bombings, said not a week went by when he did not crave to be back behind bars.

The Irishman, who attended the Court of Appeal to support Vincent and Michael Hickey and Jim Robinson, said prisoners were not properly prepared to re-enter "normal" life and suffered "terrible trauma" on the outside. They often longed for the relative security of institutions where they did not have to make decisions for themselves.

"You feel you don't belong. You are a fish out of water," said Mr Hill. "These lads will find that one minute they are on cloud nine and the next they are sitting on the floor crying like babies — and they won't know why the hell they are doing it.

Paddy Hill, one of the Birmingham Six, yesterday

"You are just a shell. You try to get a job and people ask you whether you have been trained on IBM computers. I have to say I don't even know how to work a bloody television set. There is not a week goes by when I don't wish I was back in prison. You get no help, no counselling, nothing."

Gerard Conlon, who served 14 years after being wrongly convicted for two 1974 pub bombings in which seven people died, said released prisoners felt like orphans. "The people that Vincent, Michael and James are coming out to have no idea of the allowances they will have to make. There is no basic love or compassion shown in prison," he said.

Among the 200 people in court were Sara Thornton, convicted of murdering her violent husband Malcolm but later freed after a retrial found her guilty of manslaughter. Jill Morrell, who campaigned for the release of the hostage John McCarthy, and George Silcott, brother of Winston Silcott, were also there. Showbusiness supporters included the actress Frances de la Tour and Roger Lloyd Pack, star of *Only Fools and Horses*.

☐ Michael Hickey's stepfather, a long-time campaigner for the release of the three, was himself behind bars yesterday as they walked free.

Frederick Whelan, 65, was jailed last month for a year by Leicester Crown Court for attempting to smuggle £140 worth of cannabis resin into Gartree Prison, after his stepson had asked for a "smoke" to relieve his boredom. He had no previous convictions.

Michael Hickey called yesterday for his stepfather to be released. "I smoke cannabis. I learnt it in prison. I needed some drugs to stay alive and my stepfather was trying to help me," he said.

MARC ASPLAND

Michael Hickey kisses the ground as he leaves the Law Courts after spending more than 18 years in jail

Boy's family may never be freed from pain of grief

By Richard Duce

THE parents of Carl Bridgewater deal daily with an "open wound" of grief which after 19 years has not been allowed to heal, a local churchman said yesterday.

Brian and Janet Bridgewater made no comment about events in the Court of Appeal. But Canon Paul Tongue spoke for them in the small West Midlands town of Wordsley, when he said: "There is total bewilderment and perplexity at the speed everything has happened in the last 24 hours.

"There is a wound that grief leaves, particularly when a child dies, let alone when he is murdered. That wound has got to be given time and peace in which to heal and the Bridgewaters have not had that," Canon Tongue, the Rural Dean of Stourbridge, said. "This may be the end for the Hickeys and Mr Robinson but it is not for the Bridgewaters."

In a rare interview last year, Mr Bridgewater said: "Just occasionally you can't help but wonder what the boy would be doing now. You can never get over something like this and you can't describe what it does to you. We were convinced at the time that those men did it. Nothing since has changed our minds."

Canon Tongue said yesterday: "There will be disagreement about the guilt or innocence of these three men but the one thing about which there will be no argument is the terrible situation that still remains for the parents of Carl Bridgewater. The sad reality is their wound could be left open for the rest of their lives if there is no positive resolution."

Mr Bridgewater, an engineer, and his wife still live in the neat terraced house from which Carl set out on his newspaper round in 1978. Their other children, Philip and Jane, have moved away. The family home is a mile from Yew Tree Farm where Carl was killed. The farm is derelict after being bought by the council to make way for a relief road.

Mr and Mrs Bridgewater left their home in the early hours yesterdayto stay with friends. Joe Goodaker, a neighbour, whose son Ian used to play with Carl, said: "It is always displayed in banner headlines as 'the Bridgewater case', which brings it back for them each time. If the police tell you who killed your child then you've got to believe them."

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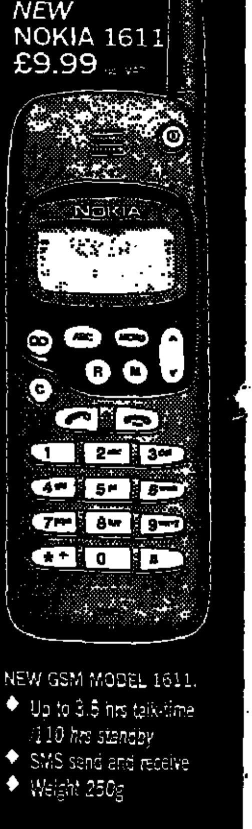

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Former policeman who interviewed Pat Molloy is now a director in a Midlands security firm

Ex-detective stays silent over forgery accusation

By Richard Duce and Russell Jenkins

THE surviving detective constable accused of faking Vincent Hickey's confession was refusing to make a statement of his own yesterday, as allegations of police involvement in the miscarriage of justice provoked an outcry.

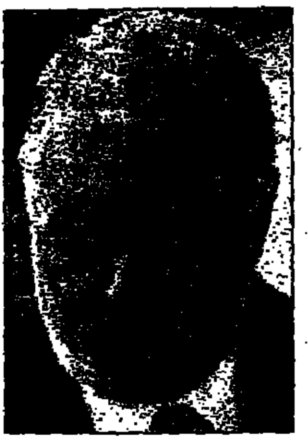
Graham Leeke, 60, stayed behind an anonymous wooden door at his security company, Heritage Security Services, in Sedgley, West Midlands. A woman employee said over the intercom: "He has got nothing to say."

Since the interview with Pat Molloy almost 19 years ago, Mr Leeke has become a director in the security guard firm, and now lives in a £200,000 executive home in Perton, overlooking countryside near Wolverhampton.

His partner in the West Midlands force, DC John Perkins, died from cancer in 1993, aged 46, a discredited and disgraced man. His wife June always complained that pressure brought to bear by the Bridgewater campaigners contributed to his early death.

Mr Perkins had a hand in a significant proportion of the cases conducted by the West Midlands serious crimes squad that West Yorkshire Police were called in to review, and was once fined for falsifying evidence. The squad was disbanded after allegations that officers fabricated confessions and planted evidence in 23 cases during the 1980s. Members of the squad had also been involved in the convictions of the six men falsely imprisoned for 17 years for the Birmingham pub bombings.

When the Bridgewater Four lost their first appeal in 1989, Staffordshire Police — responsible for the murder investigation — hailed the exposure of the "tissue of lies and half truths" put forward to discredit their evidence. Yesterday the Staffordshire and West Midlands forces said they were waiting for the full appeal evidence to emerge before commenting officially.


Leeke: he had nothing to say

John Giffard, Staffordshire Chief Constable, said: "This case has still to be heard by the Court of Appeal and, at this stage, no further comment can be made." A spokesman for the West Midlands said that the Merseyside Police inquiry into this case is continuing and that they would receive the full support and co-operation of the force.

In the Court of Appeal, Michael Mansfield, QC, speaking for the defendants, said that a forged confession purporting to have been signed by Vincent Hickey was almost certainly written by Mr Leeke, and that Mr Perkins forged the signature.

Mr Molloy, who died in prison in 1981, always maintained that he had been shown just such a confession by police, but was not believed. Neither Mr Perkins nor Mr Leeke had anything to do with interviewing Hickey, who was being dealt with separately at another police station.

Last year, Mr Leeke said: "If the judges [in the appeal] ask me, I certainly have things to say and, believe me, I will tell them about what some of us think."

Last night he arrived back at his home with his wife Anne, and again refused to comment on the court proceedings.

A manufacturer's representative demonstrating the Esda machine in action

Evidence

Continued from page 1

imprint was discovered only two weeks ago when Jim Nichol, the convicted men's solicitor, was reviewing the evidence while preparing for the appeal due to start in April. And when Mr Nichol had the handwriting on the Hickey "statement" examined, his suspicions appeared to have been borne out.

Molloy's interview was carried out by Detective Constable Graham Leeke and Detective Constable John Perkins with Detective Sergeant John Robbins sitting outside.

"The impressions in the body of the caption are in handwriting that certainly looks very similar to DC Leeke and the impressions in the signature of Vincent Hickey — which is certainly not a genuine Vincent Hickey signature — are very like the handwriting of DC Perkins", Mr Roberts told the court yesterday.

The Crown accepted that there was "no other sensible explanation that we can properly put forward" other than that the Hickey confession was a forgery.

Constable Perkins, who has since died, was disgraced in 1989 after he was caught falsifying a statement.

Lawyer who never doubted the four were innocent

By Richard Ford

FOR Jim Nichol, the former pit worker, printer and now solicitor to the Bridgewater Three, yesterday's decision is a vindication of 14 years of largely unpaid work.

He is one of a handful of solicitors whose belief in their clients' innocence has made them dogged campaigners for justice. He also helped to clear Eddie Browning of the murder of Marie Wilkes, and Colin Wallace, the former army information officer, of manslaughter. He has been pursuing the Bridgewater case since 1983, when he was first put in touch with Ann Whelan, mother of Michael Hickey, by the journalist Paul Foot. Mr Nichol, 51, said: "I looked at the case and just believed they were innocent. That is why I do it."

Nichol: studied law at night school

He has worked unpaid on the case, overcoming setbacks such as the announcement by the then Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, in 1993 that he would not refer the case to the Court of Appeal.

Mr Nichol was destined to follow his father at North Wallbottle colliery on the edge of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His parents died when he was a boy and he was brought up by an aunt and uncle in Lemington near Newcastle and left school at 15. Having contracted tuberculosis, he could not go underground, as his father had done, and worked above ground at the pit.

He became a printer and became a solicitor only at the age of 36, after studying law at night school. He would still like to go to university.

At his practice in Finsbury Park, north London, his partner is Carolyn Taylor, niece of the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth. Ms Taylor said: "Jim is driven. He takes the work home."

Mr Nichol, whose daughter was in court to witness yesterday's triumph, said that "gut instinct" had made him look again at the confession that had proved conclusive to undermining the Crown's case.

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Dexter's books are worldwide bestsellers and his *Inspector Morse* television series topped the ratings with 18 million viewers. Minette Walters has also had television success with *The Sculptress*, which will be followed in May by *The Ice House*.

The admission price includes £2 off the price of Walters's new novel *The Echo* (£16.99) and £1 off Dexter's *Death is Now My Neighbour* (£9.99), both published by Macmillan.

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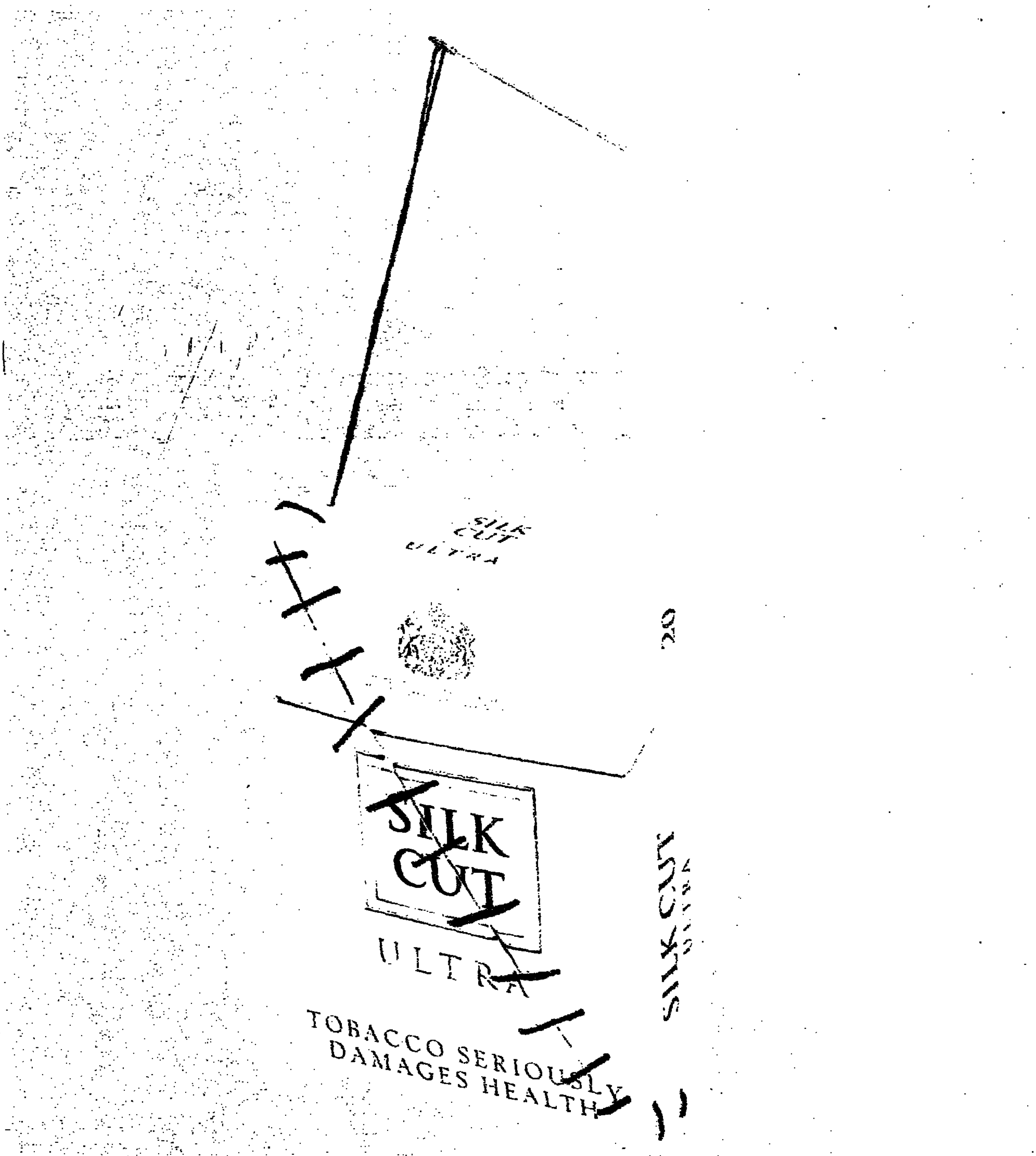

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Cleveland's shock tactics to curb youth crime may be adopted by other police forces

Glimpse of prison hell cuts teenage reoffending by half

By Paul Wilkinson

THE reality of prison life is being brought home to young offenders on Teesside. They are shown the slopping-out buckets, the stained prison-issue underwear and the metal food trays on which custard flows into gravy as the inmate carries his meal back to his cell, perhaps up three flights of stairs.

Sexual abuse and constant obscenity are also discussed as is the prevalence of bullying and assault.

The Cleveland police project that uses shock tactics to stop young people reoffending is being studied by the Home Office and other forces. Graphic descriptions of the dehumanising and degrading experience of doing time has cut the level of repeat offending by teenagers in Stockton by more than half.

Just as the 17th-century astronomer Galileo recanted and withdrew his beliefs that the Earth was not the centre of the Universe when shown the torture instruments of the Inquisition, the teenagers are taking the warnings about prison to heart.

Inspector David Walker, Stockton's community liason officer, said: "At the end of one session one boy's mother was nearly sick at what she had been shown. Another woman was sobbing and her son was comforting her in his arms. He promised her he would never do anything to get himself locked away. It has been a tremendous success."

The Stockton scheme relies on two prison officers, Andy Mitchell and Bob Puckie, from the nearby Holme House jail, giving their time voluntarily. The Prison Service is considering a request from the Inspector of Constabulary to dedicate staff full-time to run similar projects elsewhere.

The scheme — "Prison, Me? No Way" — was tested for three months last year and has now been adopted as permanent policy by Cleveland police. During the trial period 31 young offenders attended Sunday morning sessions at Stockton police station. Of those attending only five have reoffended, against the normal reoffending rate of 37 per cent.

The scheme is aimed at 12 to 17-year-olds who have already received one caution for an offence. Those caught a second time are given the option of facing the courts or attending the "warts-and-all" course.

They and their families watch a 45-minute video shot inside Hull prison that follows an offender as he enters the system. It begins with him being stripped and examined and given regulation prison clothes. The daily routine inside is then shown with a full stereo system amplifying the sounds of incarceration.

Afterwards the two prison officers talk frankly about prison life, including graphic details of the drugs, the gangs and even the sexual assaults. Mr Walker said: "The officers tell them not to believe anything their mates have told them about it being a cushy life. In Holme House there are two pool tables for 750 people. Only the bullies get to play on those. The TV goes on from 5.30 to 7.30 and only the bullies get to watch it."

Inspector Ian Birch, the head of Stockton district, said: "Any youngsters tempted to re-offend are soon put off when they have seen the video and have got a taste of life behind bars. Another bonus is that other members of the family of young offenders, including brothers, sisters and friends, also attend the scheme on a voluntary basis. It means peer pressure to commit crime may be reduced as more people than anticipated know the consequences of committing crime.

"Youngsters are told straight away that after a second caution they have no more chances and that they will be dealt with by the courts. But we find we are getting the message home and the scheme is working."

The programme costs about £160 a person per year, compared to the £1,500 a week it costs to keep an offender in prison.

Prison Officer Mitchell said: "Some people think prison is watching TV all day long but that's not the case. Youngsters are shown the indignity of life in prison and what it is like to eat and sleep in a cell where you also have a toilet. Offenders are shocked by what they see and results show the project is working."

RICHARD RAYNER

Hard-hitting: Prison Officer Andy Mitchell underlines the realities of prison to young first offenders in Stockton

Catholic pupils ran drugs ring

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

PARENTS at a Roman Catholic independent school were advised yesterday to "keep their wits about them" after the headmaster broke up a drugs ring involving 20 pupils.

Two fifth-form boys were expelled and 18 suspended over their involvement in supplying and using cannabis at St Bede's College in Manchester. The school joins a long list of leading schools that have disciplined students for drug-taking in the past year. They include Eton and Wellington College in Berkshire, and the King's School at Rochester, Kent.

Drugs have become so commonplace in schools that the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of leading independent schools has suggested that pupils caught using cannabis should be given a second chance. Exeter University researchers said last year that a survey of 50,000 teenagers found that a third of boys and more than a quarter of girls aged 15 and 16 claimed to have tried cannabis. John Byrne, headmaster of St Bede's, has called in counsellors from Lifeline, an agency that deals with heroin addicts, to lecture the college's 1,020 pupils. In a letter to parents, Mr Byrne says: "The governors and the staff are at one in deploring the drugs culture which bedevils Greater Manchester. We treat with contempt the notion of the so-called soft drug."

He added: "I must respectfully ask parents to keep their wits about them with regard to their children's behaviour and social habits. You are only too aware that many of the pubs and clubs are the refuges of the drugs pushers. But equally worrying is the prevalence of drugs at parties where peer pressure and fear of ostracism may induce the naive teenager to experiment."

Every pupil will be warned of the dangers of drugs when they return to college — motto *Nunquam Otio Torpebat* (Never Allow Yourself To Be Lazy) — on Monday after the half-term break.

Radar: top secret in 1939

Historic radar site is listed

A 350ft steel tower which formed part of Britain's first radar air-defence system has been given listed building status.

RAF Stenigot, on the Lincolnshire Wolds, is regarded as the best remaining example of the 20 radar sites constructed along the east coast in 1939. The Chain Home system, as it was known, played a vital role in the Battle of Britain and other RAF operations during the Second World War.

Stenigot, between Louth and Horncastle, was chosen because it occupies the highest point along the east coast between Yorkshire and Kent.

Stenigot was also used as a Gee Station, with secret electronic technology which directed British bomber crews to enemy targets with pinpoint accuracy. Now its galvanised steel transmitter tower and two buildings have been Grade II listed.

Eurotunnel in freight safety talks

Eurotunnel has begun talks with safety officials about restarting freight shuttle services. But the company refused to comment on a French press report that it had decided against safer but more expensive shuttle wagons. The safety of the open wagons was questioned after drivers were hurt in a fire on a freight shuttle last November. Eurotunnel said that it had submitted only draft proposals to the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority.

Fan assaulted

James "Five Bellies" Gardner, a friend of the Glasgow Rangers player Paul Gascoigne, was fined £500 at Paisley Sheriff Court for assaulting a Celtic fan in a pub. The Rangers player Charlie Miller and Steven McDermott were cleared of charges arising from the incident.

Freedom plea

Alexander Hall, 42, a former Strathclyde policeman jailed for life in 1988 for slitting the throat of a teenage girl, will ask for temporary freedom next month pending appeal. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, has agreed to have the case re-examined in the light of new evidence.

Yoghurt recall

Safeway has recalled 150g pots of its own-brand toffee and hazelnut yoghurts because the contents may have been mistakenly switched. Tesco is also recalling jars of its Chocolate Swirl and 325g and 200g jars of Chocolate Spread because they may contain traces of nut.

Blackmail case

A man who threatened to cut the throat of a Trafalgar Square ice cream vendor unless he paid £7,000 protection money was jailed for 33 months. Bob Darke, 37, of Kennington, south London, pleaded guilty to blackmail. His partner was earlier jailed for four years.

Baby snatcher

Sarah Allen, 24, of Maybush, Southampton, admitted four charges of trying to abduct babies and asked for nine other cases to be considered at Winchester Crown Court. She was placed on probation providing she undergoes psychiatric treatment.

Road 'shooting'

A "stressed" driver who fired an imitation gun at another motorist was jailed for four months. Paul Marcham, 27, of Whitley Wood, Reading, fired a blank from his car as the other man ran up to him after problems in overtaking.

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New hand finds Blue Peter still on course after 39 years

By Joe Joseph

Model presenters: Christopher Trace, Valerie Singleton and, right, John Noakes in 1966

DAVID CHESKIN/PA

Richard Bacon meeting his new colleagues, from left: Romana D'Annunzio, Stuart Miles and Katy Hill

IF THE names Christopher Trace, Valerie Singleton, John Noakes and Peter Purves mean anything to you, then you probably won't care much that Richard Bacon, a former local radio reporter, was yesterday named the 24th presenter of *Blue Peter*.

Bacon replaces the resident hunk, Tim Vincent, on what remains the BBC's flagship children's programme after nearly 40 years, when most people might have assumed that there just wasn't any crêpe paper left to glue, any tall building that hadn't been abseiled, or any animal that hadn't been allowed to poop on the studio floor.

Christopher Trace and Leila Williams were the first presenters in 1958. Although the flesh in front of the camera has changed over the years, the spirit of *Blue Peter* — a programme which has given "sticky-back plastic" and "Get down Shep!" an almost Proustian undertow for generations of children — has stayed the same.

Bacon's audition involved making a Christmas card, bouncing on a trampoline and handling a snake — tricks you would be asked to perform at a job interview only for *Blue Peter* or for one of the more progressive merchant banks.

Bacon, 21, has already been given his first television assignment: a trip to the jungle of Brunei for military training. Climbing remote mountains and building Thunderbirds' Tracy Island out of old toilet rolls and egg boxes is apparently what Bacon had been aching to do all his short life, with pretty much the same passion that Tony Blair has been aching to be Prime Minister.

"I remember seeing Caron Keating filming *Blue Peter* when I was with my family," Bacon said. "I was about ten, but I had dreams that it would be me one day. I couldn't believe it when I heard I had got the job. I've had to keep it a secret for over a week. When I rang my mum she jumped up and down screaming with excitement."

Oliver Macfarlane, the editor of *Blue Peter*, said: "We looked far and wide for our new presenter. Richard is hugely likeable and that immediately came across in the audition. He's a good presenter and should be able to cope with most things that *Blue Peter* throws at him."

Bacon, born in Mansfield, began his career as a reporter at BBC Radio Nottingham before moving to the cable channel Live TV. At *Blue Peter* he will join on the sofa Stuart Miles, Katy Hill and Romana D'Annunzio — names currently recognisable only to those still in short trousers or Spice Girls T-shirts, but probably not for long.

Although the show's early presenters hung around pasting crêpe paper onto empty washing-up liquid bottles for long enough to make their woolly jumpers look lived-in, the current crop often stays only as long as it takes to get a sexier offer from elsewhere.

Most famously, Anthea Turner went onwards and upwards — if not always happily, as her high profile and even higher salary attracted a certain amount of ridicule, not least from some of her subsequent co-presenters, such as Eamonn Holmes. Actor-cum-presenter Tim Vincent, whom Bacon is replacing, has appeared in *The Clothes Show* and the drama series *Dangerfield*. He has also been a model.

Blue Peter has lived on long after most of the competition. Thames launched *Magpie* in 1968 with Tony Bastable, Peter Brady and Susan Stranks, who gave the programme a sexier accent than had been the norm on children's television. But they were pitted, in that year, against the *Blue Peter* dream team of Singleton, Noakes, Purves and Petra the dog. Also, in Noakes, *Blue Peter* had an amiable maniac who was willing to undertake any assignment — however hazardous or barmy — as long as he could be accompanied by a camera and his dog, Shep.

Top 40 is being manipulated, says Radio 1

By Damian Whitworth

RECORD companies are giving away so many free and discounted singles to boost their success in the Top 40 that even the BBC says the chart has lost its credibility.

An exposé of the practice is to be broadcast on Radio 1 tomorrow night, after the chart programme. The Top 40 is compiled from figures for the number of records sold each week while other charts are based on the amount of airtime each single receives. Investigators for the programme, *Hyping the Hits*, found that shops were being given free records so that they could sell them at discounts and push them into the number one slot. The records were then sold at normal price.

A number-one hit guarantees publicity for a group that will assist in much more lucrative album sales.

Shops were asked how it was possible to sell CD singles for just 99p when the normal price was around £3. It emerged that record companies were offering them up to three free singles for every one the shop bought and two shops were even given completely free stock.

In November last year Mark Owen, the former Take That singer, saw his single *Child* shoot straight to number 2. One shop was offered one free record for every one it bought. But when these failed to sell, the whole stock was given free.

John Preston, of the British Phonographic Institute and BMG Records (UK), to which Owen is signed, said: "Some of those records may have been given away but not in the kind of quantities that our competitors have." He said that 300,000 to 400,000 copies of that record had been sold. "I don't expect our discounts were more than about 15 or 20 per cent but I honestly don't know. That kind of discount is considered normal. A game of chicken is going on. Are we first to decide we are not doing what our competitors are doing?"

Last night Trevor Dann, head of BBC Music Entertainment, said: "The only way you can tell how popular a record is is how slowly it goes down the chart," he said.

He said listeners had a right to know what was happening. "The public may not be aware of how the chart is manipulated. We have an obligation to let them know."

The BBC is reviewing, with the record industry, the way the chart is compiled.

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Chief Rabbi places morality firmly on the political agenda

Sacks: social concern

BY RUTH GLEDHILL AND DANIEL JOHNSON

THE Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, today calls on the political parties to restore the Judaeo-Christian tradition to the centre of British national life. With his book, *The Politics of Hope*, Dr Sacks attempts to place morality on the agenda of political debate and advocates a liberal society rooted in communal and family values.

Dr Sacks argues that the views he holds are also being adopted "by politicians at both ends of the political spectrum — by Democrats and Republicans in America, and members of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties in Britain" — but his scathing attack on contemporary Britain will be particularly welcome to the Labour leader, Tony Blair. He shares the Chief Rabbi's interest in the American communitarian movement and his rejection both of "the politics of collectivism and the politics of private initiative".

His critique of Thatcherism and the right-wing libertarianism of the 1980s is in marked contrast to the philosophy of his predecessor, Lord Jakobovits, who was close to Margaret Thatcher and espoused many of her political views. But Dr Sacks is also scathing in his treatment of the permissive society of the 1960s and the libertarians of the left.

The timing, so near to an election, of the first purely political work by a Chief Rabbi, and the first by the head of any British religious denomination for more than 50 years, will be seen as provocative by Dr Sacks's critics among orthodox Jews.

In his book, serialised in *The Times* from today, Dr Sacks mounts a critique of Margaret Thatcher's oft-quoted statement: "There is no such thing as society." Dr Sacks comments: "This is a tenable view and there is only one thing to be said against it: It has been tried and it has failed."

He adds: "It has given rise to a social order — or more precisely, to a social disorder — more bleak than any within living memory. Today many parts of Britain and America are marked by vandalism, violent crime and a loss of civility; by the breakdown of the family and the widespread neglect of children; by an erosion of trust and a general loss of faith in the power of governments to cure some of our most deep-seated problems."

Dr Sacks says higher-income groups benefited disproportionately from the tax-cutting programmes of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s, but argues that the real inequality of post-industrial capitalism goes far deeper. He says the "new rich" no longer mix with the poor as, for example, lords mixed with serfs in earlier ages. "Social geography is gradually polarising between the urban ghetto and the gilded ghetto," he argues.

Dr Sacks says he is not arguing for a return to Victorian values. "There is nothing to be said for marching boldly towards the past," he says. "What the Victorians taught us is that whatever we seek collectively to create, the way to do so is to focus on character and on the institutions that promote a strong sense of personhood and social concern."

Dr Jonathan Sacks, page 22

Archbishop of York opposes US-style tele-evangelism

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

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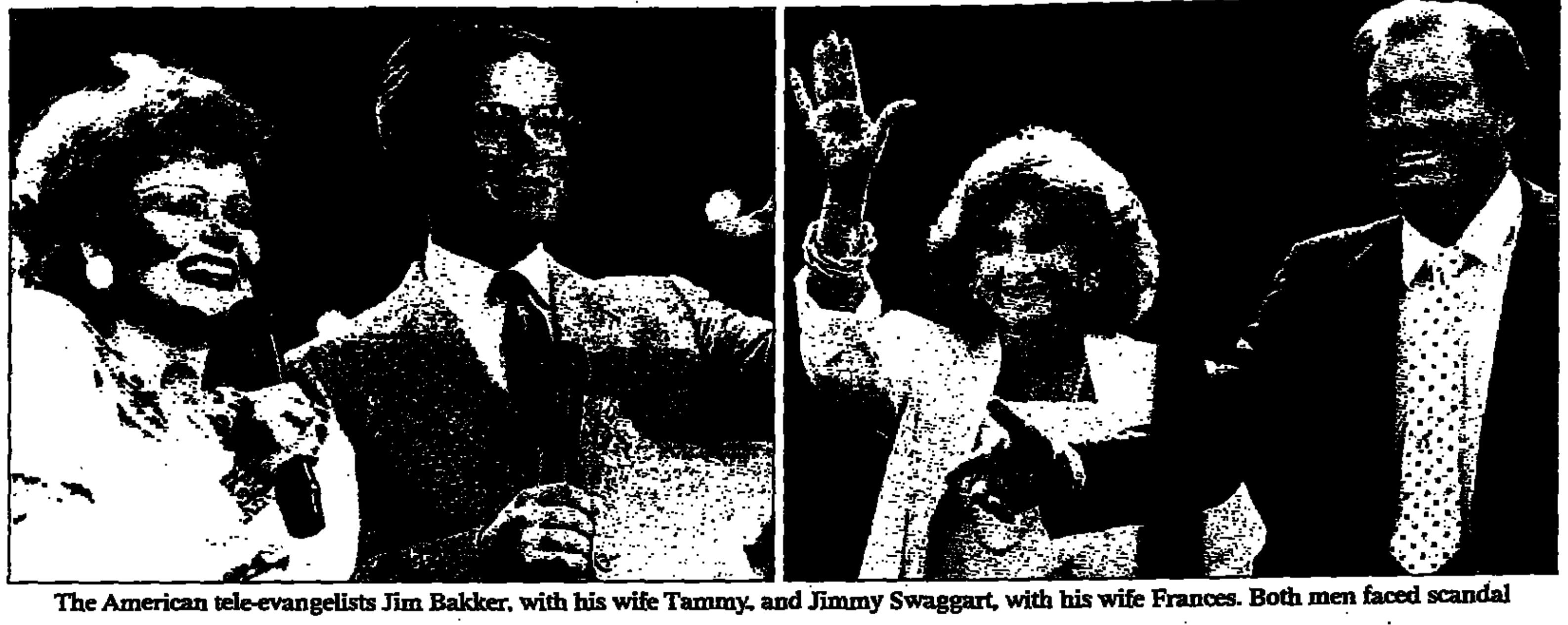
The American tele-evangelists Jim Bakker, with his wife Tammy, and Jimmy Swaggart, with his wife Frances. Both men faced scandal

THE Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said yesterday he would strongly oppose the establishment of fundamentalist American-style tele-evangelism radio and television stations in Britain.

Dr Hope had helped to promote the London Christian Radio Station, but said that it was "ecumenically broad-based", different in tone and content from those he was criticising. He particularly criticised Mother Angelina, the Roman Catholic broadcaster who has a huge following for her radio station in America with her denunciations of the world and the flesh. He did not want to see such tele-evangelist stations in this country and argued that the Church should rather seek to convey its message through the mainstream media.

Typical of the kind of American tele-evangelist who would be opposed by the Archbishop was Jim Bakker, who, with his wife, found wealth and fame in the 1980s with their upbeat message. In his autobiography, Mr Bakker charts his downfall after the press learnt of his adultery. Jimmy Swaggart, another American tele-evangelist, resigned after admitting that he had slept with a prostitute.

Radio and television could help to pose the right questions, he said, arguing for the preservation of straightforward "religious" programmes such as BBC Radio 3's *Choral Evensong* and BBC1's *Songs of Praise*. "These are still remarkably valid, and faith-creating and faith-provoking. They still command considerable audience figures."

There was a "spiritual hunger" that the Church had to learn to address through the media. "Everywhere I go I hear a similar story: that people want to believe in God, in Heaven; in something other than the rather shallow and predictable existence which can so easily become the norm, and that more than 70 per cent of the population say they believe in God."

This presented a challenge for the Church, operating as it did in a culture where the answers to life's questions had to be presented in a few sentences. Dr Hope, addressing journalists, clergy and students, at Newcastle University, said it was essential that bishops and other church leaders "seize the agenda".

"I acknowledge the need for us within the Church of England to be media-aware — less naive, more ready to understand the complexities of a media-saturated world." The mobile phone-carrying Archbishop has two of the most astute religious public relations officials in the Church of England — Raymond Barker and the Rev Rob Marshall.

Dr Hope admitted that he was not a regular listener to BBC Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* or *Prayer for the Day*, but said that his local radio station in York had a three-hour Sunday morning programme which was "stimulating, varied and lively". The numbers listening to religious programmes on a Sunday, such as the one in York and BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* were remarkable, he said.

Dr Hope said: "There are those who conclude the whole [media] show to be so corrupting that the Christian and the faith community should shun them entirely. Indeed, I know those whose basic policy is to say nothing: 'not available', 'no comment'. This, in my view, is unrealistic."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15

Let's not shop until we drop but rather care until we share

Credo

Vincent Nichols

THIS weekend many Christian communities are entering the second week of Lent. For 40 days, as followers of Christ, we recall and re-enact the time He spent in prayer and fasting in the desert. For Jesus, this was a Spirit-led preparation for his public ministry, death and Resurrection. For us, it is a time of preparation for celebration of that death and Resurrection in our Easter festivities.

The language associated with Lent tells its own story. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word denoting the lengthening of the days as spring gains a hold. On the eve of Lent comes the carnival of Mardi Gras. "Carnival" comes from "carne" and "vale": farewell to meat. Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday, when milk and butter have to be finished prior to the austere diet of a traditional Lent.

Exercises of self-denial, such as fasting, are easily misunderstood. They can seem an unhealthy attempt to expurgate a sense of guilt or even to appease a threatening deity. More probably they can be passed off as an attempt at healthier living. But when refined by Christian faith they are understood and experienced as an attempt to free one's inmost spirit to be more responsive to the things of God.

The observance of Lent is not a "do this or else" exercise. It is an invitation to enter more deeply into the reality of God's presence and the exquisite joy of knowing God more clearly.

Traditionally the practice of Lent calls for three kinds of effort: self-denial, prayer and practical charity towards those in need. Each aspect addresses our tendency to lose sight of God. Self-denial is the opposite of compulsive consumerism. To do with less frees one from the siren call of constant shopping. Prayer puts into practice the truth that in God alone is to be found the source of lasting satisfaction, and without God's blessing all will crumble to dust. Almsgiving or practical charity reminds us that all we have is given to us on trust by God for the common good, not just for ourselves.

Lent, like spring, is a time of new life. It is a clearing out of the dross, a refining of the spirit, a breaking of idols and false gods. Without it our lives become cluttered and confused. With a renewed sense of God, we find again a focus of judgment, of knowing the true from the false. Dilemmas remain in abundance, but our homing sense has been restored.

☐ *The Right Rev Vincent Nichols is the Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster*

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Artist returns to oils to capture light and colour

Traditional skills flower at Hockney's new show

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE spectacular latest paintings by David Hockney, Britain's *most* celebrated living artist, will go on sale in May in his largest commercial show in London. Shown here in a special preview, the images of irises, sunflowers and violets, drenched in a *radiant* Californian light, use mesmerising colours that stay with the viewer long after they are seen.

In the new paintings, Hockney has forsaken faxes, photocopiers and other technology that has inspired experimentation, to return to the original tools of his trade: oils *and* canvas.

Hockney, who lives in California, spoke yesterday of the *influence* of a revelatory exhibition last year *on* Vermeer, the 17th-century Dutch master of light. "What struck me was *how vivid and strong the* colour was in paintings which are 300 years old. It was partly the way he'd painted them," he said.

"I came back here and realised we've got a marvel*lous abundance* of wonderful, strong light. I began to arrange daylighting in different ways. The most important *thing was the* way *colour* was put on so as to stay there.

"I put on thin layers, so that it is transparent. Vermeer's technique was thin layers — thin layers of ultramarine, for

DAVID HOCKNEY

Hockney by Hockney: a charcoal sketch from 1983 shows the way he constantly explores new styles

example, to *make* it blue. It's because of the colour that it's lasted 300 years. I've painted *flowers throughout* my career, but I've never really done a whole series."

Such is Hockney's draw for collectors, he *commands* prices fetched by Old Masters. The latest pictures, to be exhibited at Annely Juda Fine Art in central London from May 1, range in price from £150,000 to £400,000.

David Juda, co-director of the gallery where the works will be shown, said: "These are the best paintings he's done *in* the past 15 years. They're so immediate. It's the colour. *If you* look at the paintings, they look so incredibly thickly painted. But come up close and you *can* nearly see the canvas through the paint."

Hockney, born in *1937*, began *the series with* sunflowers when his close friend, Jonathan Silver, a businessman and collector *from* Hockney's home-town of Bradford, sent him 59 sunflowers for his 59th birthday: "I *painted* 30 *of them.* You don't get too long to paint them. They only lasted six days. That's what *I* took to paint them. After then, they bend and fall. I wanted to paint pictures with a lot of yellow — the colour of hope, *according to Van Gogh, and* a rare colour in painting at the moment."

Hockney, who has criticised art schools that do not teach the basic crafts of painting and drawing, learnt the *rules* at *Bradford College* of Art and the Royal School of Art before breaking them.

He is best known for such images as *A Bigger Splash* (1967), the brilliant blue swimming pool painting *depicting* a splash just made by an unseen, submerged diver, his 1969 portrait of the fashion *designer* Ossie Clark in *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy* — both owned by the Tate *Gallery — and the suite* of charming etchings *Six Fairy Tales From the Brothers Grimm*, also from 1969.

Hockney's show, which opens on May 1, will include a series of portraits among *the* 48 paintings. He remains faithful to his sitters and they will reappear in the latest *images;* his 96-year-old mother is among them.

The artist will fly to London *to direct the hanging:* an exhibition's installation is of paramount importance to him. *Inspired* by his work in stage design, *he* has constructed a complete scale model of the Annely Juda gallery at his *Los Angeles studio and had* every picture reduced to postage-stamp size.

Hockney's latest oil on canvas works can command Old Master prices

Robber is jailed for snatching Rolex

A ROBBER who wrested Rolex watches from a couple whose Range Rover was held up in traffic was jailed for ten years yesterday. Judge Elfer, QC, said that Tarek Alayli carried *out* a "*ruthless* and terrifying" attack on victims whose only crime "was that by working hard at *their* chosen professions, they carried their riches of Rolex on their left wrists".

Alayli, 21, of Fulham, southwest London, admitted at Southwark Crown Court robbing Victor Monsey, 53, a company director, of his £16,000 Rolex and trying to rob his wife Elizabeth, 36, a cable television executive, of her £12,000 watch.

The couple, from Barnes, *southwest London*, fell prey last August to a gang armed with knives who had spent an afternoon driving around in a stolen car "seeking to prey on any victims who appeared to have valuable items".

Mr Monsey, who a few months earlier had a severe heart attack, and his wife were injured. Philip Shorrock, for the prosecution, said the robbery ended when a passer-by intervened with a golfing umbrella. *The judge* awarded a £600 "thank-you" to three South African tourists who chased Alayli.

At the time of the incident Alayli was awaiting trial for robbing a woman at her *home. He was sentenced* yesterday to six years for that offence and four years consecutively for the Monsey crimes.

Women hope to ring changes at St Paul's

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

PRESSURE is mounting for *St Paul's to admit women to its* bellringing guild following the appointment of the cathedral's first woman priest, the Rev Lucy *Winkett*.

Women can take the ropes as guest ringers at St Paul's, but it is the only one of England's 42 cathedrals to exclude women from its resident guild.

Leading the call for women bellringers is Paul Smith, a former president of the guild. He said yesterday that *women in* the bell *tower* were "treated as chattels" and that he had seen them "appallingly humiliated". Mr Smith resigned as a member of the guild in protest over other matters before Christmas.

Eminent women ringers have backed the call for change, which many consider to be overdue, especially in the light of Miss Winkett's appointment as a minor canon from September. St Paul's, whose 12 bells are among the most *difficult to ring in the* country and whose guild is respected nationally for its expertise, draws its ringers *from the Ancient Society* of College Youths, a strictly male body.

Baroness Cox, who rings at the 14th-century St Mary's at Monken Hadley, near Barnet, north London, said: "It seems *to me that there is tension* between long-established traditions, and sometimes traditions can be precious, compared with an attempt to open up ringing in what has been a male preserve. Without undermining tradition, I think bellringing is a marvellous part of our English heritage and would like *to see as many* people as possible getting joy and satisfaction from it."

Winkett: appointment has encouraged ringers

She said there was no reason why women *could not* ring as well as men. "Women have a lot to give and a lot to receive from what is a very precious part of our English heritage. I am not one to eschew tradition and there may be good reasons for keeping St Paul's a male-only preserve. But, in general, I *think* we *need to encourage* ringing."

Jim Phillips, secretary of the cathedral guild, said: "We have *six or seven* ladies on whom we call regularly. If a competent lady turns up when there is a full complement of guild members, one of the guild will sit down and allow her to ring."

One insider said: "This is not something that has just blown up. Paul Smith resigned before Christmas but *at the time he did not mention* women as a reason for his resignation. He was unhappy about other things. There are *often* lady visitors to the tower at St Paul's."

The cathedral has been a bastion of Anglo-Catholic traditionalism in the Church of England, but the appointment of Miss Winkett indicates that *under the stewardship* of the new Dean, Dr John Moses, changes could be afoot.

Some churchmen and women would like to see girls and women singing in the choir at St Paul's, although there are no plans at present to *introduce* them. However, senior church figures, while reluctant to be quoted, are also quietly *hoping for change on* many fronts at the Church's flagship cathedral.

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Protestants and Catholics from Northern Ireland follow Wilde and Beckett to Dublin

Students pursue course of peace across the divide

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

BRIGHT young Protestants and Roman Catholics from Northern Ireland are forming new friendships in a rush to study in Dublin. After three decades of being shunned during the Troubles, Trinity College Dublin is resuming its traditional role as the Oxbridge of Ireland.

Students from communities in Northern Ireland have doubled to 600 in the past two years. More than half are Protestants, who steered clear of Dublin at the height of the conflict. Roman Catholic students were once relatively rare because, until 1970, they had to secure a special dispensation from the Church to attend the "dissident" Protestant Trinity founded by Queen Elizabeth I.

The increased popularity is seen as a direct result of the peace process. Rossa Coyle, 18, from Co Armagh, who was educated at a Catholic school, said she barely knew any Protestants until she started her English degree at Trinity last October. Within days of enrolling, she had struck up strong friendships and is now sharing a flat in Dublin with Caroline Jones, 19, a Protestant from Belfast.

Miss Coyle said; "Trinity really is a melting pot where everyone is so friendly. I know lots of Protestants from Northern Ireland, but I would never think of asking them their religion. When pictures of the north come on television, I tease Caroline about Orange marches, but it is not serious."

Miss Jones, who is in the first year of a degree in history, ancient history and archaeology, said that increasing numbers of Protestants ventured south as a direct result of the IRA ceasefire, but she had detected a slight chilling in the atmosphere since its collapse. She said: "It was so lovely during the peace. But I would say that I am made much more conscious of the fact that I am a Protestant. Some people from the south blame Protestants because they assume you are Unionist."

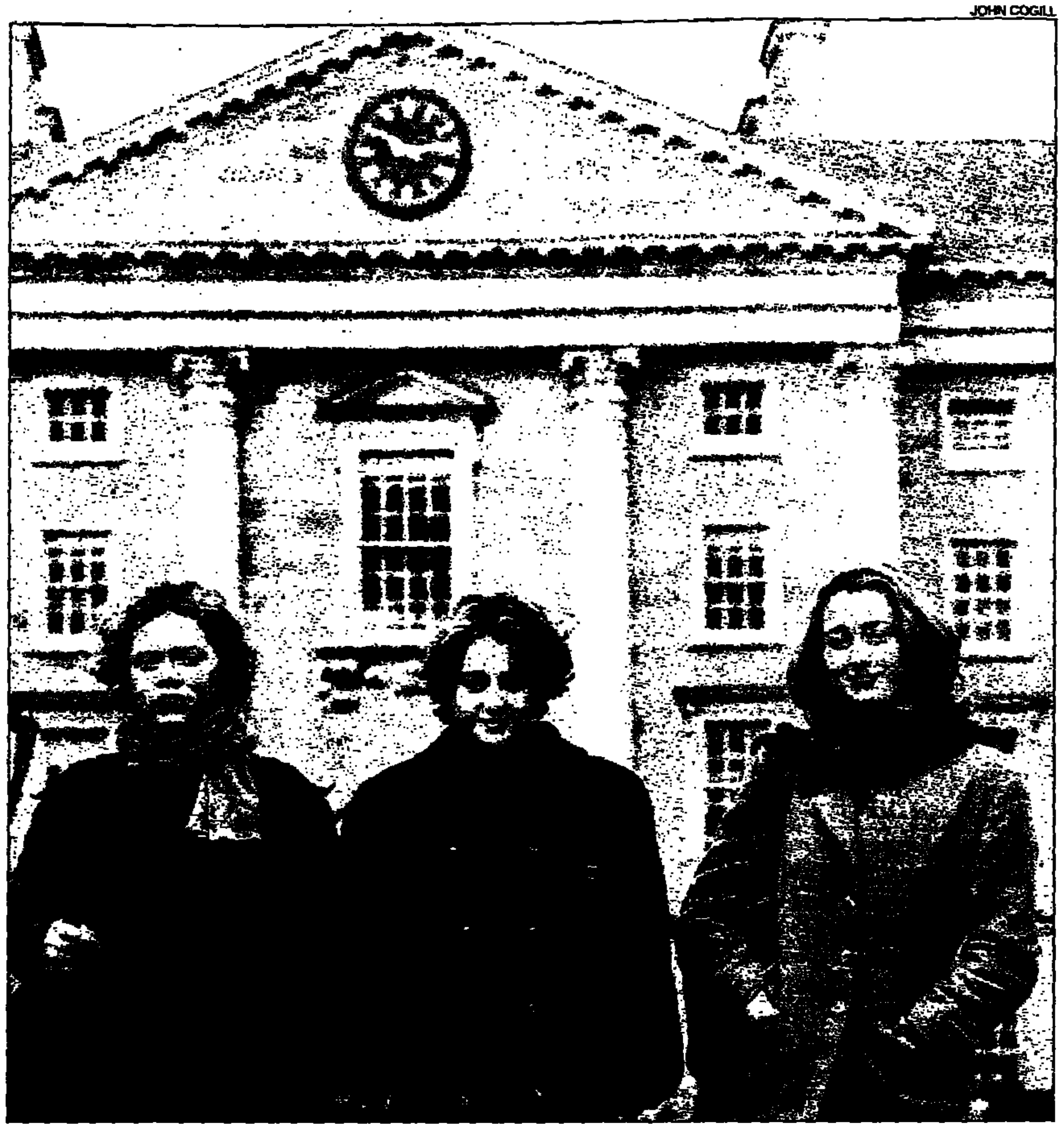
Catherine Donnelly, 23, a Catholic from Galbally, Co Tyrone, a scholar in the final year of her law degree, said she came to Dublin because she wanted a different experience. She said: "Dublin is a lovely city and Trinity is such a nice college. There is so much to do."

Trinity once stood out as a symbol of Ireland's sectarian divisions. Known as the "University of the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy", a third of its students were Protestants from Northern Ireland, another third came from Britain and the rest came from the Republic. When the Troubles erupted in 1969, the numbers from Northern Ireland fell to 5 per cent as Protestants avoided Dublin, which was regarded as Republican territory, and enrolled in British universities or stayed in Northern Ireland.

Trinity, which has 8,000 students, is delighted with the new influx. Dr Thomas Mitchell, the Provost, said: "It is very encouraging that students, and their parents in particular, think that it is once again appropriate that they should attend university in Dublin and that they are confident they will be welcome."

The increase means that public schools in Northern Ireland are resuming contacts with Dublin. The Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, which sent Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett to Trinity, is having little difficulty in encouraging its students to follow in their footsteps. Richard Bennett, Portora's principal, who studied at Trinity in the early 1960s, said: "I am very pleased. The renewed Irish dimension is important for northern students. I think it is also important for the university to be seen as an all-Ireland institution which it was set up to be."

JOHN COGILL



Making new lives at "the Oxbridge of Ireland": from left, Rossa Coyle, her flatmate Caroline Jones, and Catherine Donnelly. Miss Coyle said: "Trinity really is a melting pot where everyone is so friendly

Why firms kick bad workers upstairs

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

PROMOTION is a good way to get rid of a poor worker, psychologists said yesterday. A better-sounding job title means that the unwanted employee will look good to a rival firm on the job market.

Really talented people are more likely to stay for money than a title. The hidden benefits of taking incompetent staff and "kicking them upstairs" were highlighted in a US study which examined the employment records of more than 5,000 employees of an unnamed oil company.

Three researchers from Cornell University looked at what had happened to people hired between 1983 and 1988 and who were either still employed or had resigned voluntarily by the beginning of 1990. They were interested in the relationships between employee performance ratings, salary growth, promotions, and other factors, and how these influenced decisions to stay or leave.

Charlie Trevor, Dr Barry Gerhart, and Dr John Boudreau report in the *Journal of Applied Psychology* that promotion is one way of getting rid of poorer performers, because it gives them visibility and legitimacy in the job market. Promotion had no effect on the turnover of the best-performing employees.

These people already enjoyed high marketability, so promotions alone — unless allied to extra salary — did little to discourage them from taking up attractive offers from other employers.

High salary growth helped most to retain the high performers. Because they find it easier to move, their turnover is more highly dependent on being satisfied to stay where they are, which depends on salary growth.

Merit pay systems that fail to recognise the difference between the best and worst performers are likely to contribute to high-performer turnover, they note: "Tomorrow's stars may be among today's few top performers, their retention, at least in part, appears to depend on paying them according to their performance."

Robber paralysed in supermarket raid given £150,000 home

By Ian Murray
Community Correspondent

AN ARMED robber, paralysed from the neck down after being shot by rival criminals during a supermarket raid, is to be rehoused in a purpose-built £150,000 flat and given round-the-clock care at a cost of £2,500 a week.

Gary Mullins, 28, has been a patient at Stoke Mandeville Hospital since April 1994, when he and an accomplice were gunned down by an Ulster loyalist gang who were attempting to rob the same store. Considered too ill to stand trial for the raid in which he was injured, he will need 24-hour care in the four-bedroom flat provided by a housing association in Islington, north London.

He had a string of convictions for violent crime, and had spent much of his adult life in prison. While in hospital, he was infamous for abusing staff and other patients.

Colin Meek, 26, his accomplice, was shot in the head by the loyalist gang but has made a 90 per cent recovery. Last June he was jailed for ten years for his part in the raid in Islington, during which the two men threatened staff with a sawn-off shotgun and sprayed them with CS gas before stealing nearly £7,000 from the tills.

The loyalist gang, who had been staking out the same store, shot them as they tried to make their getaway in a stolen car. Three members of the loyalist gang have since received 20-year sentences for attempted murder.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided not to prosecute Mullins for the robbery, in which he was hit by a bullet which severed his spinal cord. His condition has been stabilised and he has moved from the Buckinghamshire hospital to a north London nursing home while his new flat is equipped to suit his needs. Among the necessary equipment is a small generator to provide back-up for the ventilator which helps him to breathe.

Islington council is responsible for housing Mullins because he was born and brought up in the borough. He is considered a priority case so he has jumped to the top of the list. His flat is on a small housing association estate, half a mile from the scene of the robbery.

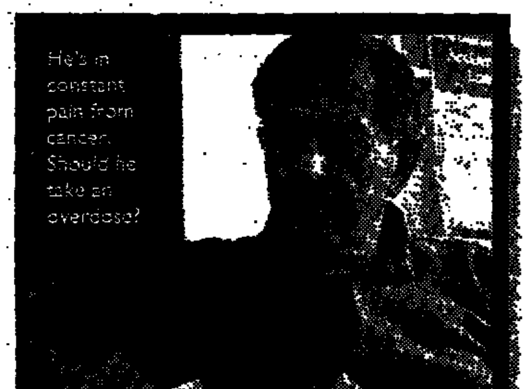
"We cannot discuss individual cases but have a statutory duty to look after people according to their health needs under the Community Care Act, the Housing Act and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act," the council said. "The circumstances in which someone has become paralysed have nothing to do with our legal responsibility."

Although the council is required to find accommodation, it will not have to pay for it. Rent for the flat will be covered by housing benefit and most of the nursing package will be funded by Camden and Islington Health Authority.

Sarah Ludford, leader of the Liberal Democrat group on Islington council, said it was shocking that an armed criminal could get to the top of the housing list ahead of law-abiding citizens. "This man has spent his life preying on a community that is now going to have to pay to look after him," Ms Ludford said. "Everyone has the right to community care, but I would like to be assured that there are not more deserving cases ahead of him in the queue."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD SYKES

She's fifteen
and pregnant.
Should she have
an abortion?



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Belgrade Mayor ends 50 years of socialist power

From Tom Walker in Belgrade

ZORAN DJINDJIC was yesterday elected the Mayor of Belgrade, ending fifty years of Socialist rule in the Serb capital.

Preparations for a street party began in earnest after the vote, and hundreds of thousands were expected last night in the city centre to celebrate a milestone in the Zajedno coalition's crusade to rid Serbia of President Milosevic's moribund regime.

They were lent heart by growing signs that Serbia's federal Yugoslav partner, Montenegro, is growing tired of Mr Milosevic's deadweight, which so straps its economy. Mile Djukanovic, the Montenegrin Prime Minister, said it would be "totally wrong" for him to stay in power, raising doubts as to whether Mr Milosevic can garner the Montenegrin support he will need to become the next Yugoslav federal President.

Yesterday's vote, a formality, was nonetheless a warning to Zajedno of the difficulties of keeping friends in the fractious battleground of Balkan politics. A withering and personal attack by Vojislav Seselj, *the ultra-nationalist former* Serb paramilitary leader, left *Mr Djindjic red-faced and the* session in procedural chaos.

"*Once a thief* always a thief," screamed Mr Seselj, *dredging up an old allegation* that Mr Djindjic had once *stolen a leather jacket and* a more recent rumour that he *had paid two representatives* to switch parties. "Who knows what he will steal next?"

Mr Seselj, whose friends include Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French National Front leader, has mined a rich vein of political capital from the foreign support given to Zajedno during its 88 days of protest. He made full use of the foreign media yesterday, giving a theatrical performance. "No one has marched behind a German flag in Belgrade since 1944," he said. "You're not electing a Belgrade Mayor, you're electing a *Sturmführer*."

Ignoring the attacks, the new Mayor of Belgrade thanked the people for their unstinting support since November, *when Mr Milosevic* overturned Zajedno's election victories. "*I see the great will* of the people," he said. "Finally Belgrade will become a world metropolis."

He recognised the most obvious problem for Zajedno councils — the bankrupt town halls they have inherited, and the likelihood that Mr Milosevic will attempt to starve them of state cash — but pledged: "Belgrade must become a mirror of Serbia."

Although he acknowledged his Serb Radical Party could not affect yesterday's outcome, Mr Seselj gave warning of trouble, predicting the breakup of the Zajedno coalition. "Djindjic will ruin you," he shouted at Vuk Draskovic, Mr Djindjic's Zajedno partner.

One of the first actions taken by the council yesterday was to order an audit of its Socialist predecessor's books. It also announced a new board of directors, comprising cross-party politicians and journalists, for Studio B, the capital's television station.

Another blow to the Milosevic family was Thursday's assassination of a business associate of the *President's son, Marko.* Vladen Kovacevic, who owned *the "Tref" group of companies,* was shot in New Belgrade's *Sava business centre.*

Berisha travels to raise support

Tirana: President Berisha of Albania dismissed demands for his resignation over the crash of pyramid investment funds and headed *to the north of the* country in his campaign to *win back public support.* On Thursday protesters in *the capital threw stones at* police who fired live rounds *over their heads. (Reuter)*

The four murdered young women, who were identified only by their first names, clockwise from top left, Audrey, 17, Isabelle, 20, Peggy, 20, and Amelie, 17

A woman and her daughter weeping at the site near Boulogne where the bodies were found yesterday

Bodies of Boulogne murder victims found

From Reuter in Lille

FRENCH police yesterday found the bodies of four young women who went missing during a carnival evening ten days ago in the northern port of Boulogne.

Investigators said suspects had confessed to the murder of the women, whose bodies were found concealed at the base of a concrete blockhouse built by German forces during the Second World War in a forest outside the village of Portel, near Boulogne.

The four young women — named only as 20 year-olds Isabelle and Peggy, and 17-year-olds Audrey and Amelie — were wearing carnival dresses when they went missing. They were allegedly murdered on the evening following their disappearance, and their bodies were found at Sainte-Cecile-Plage.

Five members of one family were detained by police. The suspects included three brothers, all of them scrap merchants, who live in a village a few miles from the spot where the women were seen for the last time, police said.

Euro-tax 'fudge' helps Italy towards EMU

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

ITALY was given a helping hand in its uphill struggle to qualify for monetary union yesterday when the European Commission ruled that it was entitled to use a once-off "Euro-tax" to narrow its budget deficit.

Eurostat, the Commission's statistical arm, rejected critics' claims that Rome's special tax amounted to a "fudge" to help it scrape below the budget limit for 1997, set by the *Maastricht treaty* as a key condition for membership of the future single *currency.*

The decision was applauded by *Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian* Prime Minister, who has staked his job on swapping the lira for the euro when the currency is launched on January 1, 1999. It was greeted with a stony silence in Bonn, where the Finance Ministry would make no comment.

Italy's burning ambition to join economic and monetary union (EMU) at the outset is upsetting German politicians who fear that the consequences of letting the traditionally weak currencies of southern Europe embrace the euro.

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, has warned candidate members against "creative bookkeeping", a charge that has been indignantly denied by Signor Prodi. German *warnings have come to sound less* authoritative this month with signs that Bonn, faced with crushing unemployment, will itself be hard-pressed to match the Maastricht criteria.

While Germany's new travails have prompted speculaton on a possible delay in EMU, they have fed hopes in Italy, Spain and Portugal, that European leaders could ease the rules for the sake of keeping to the timetable. The future euro countries will be chosen by the 15 heads of government at a summit in Britain in little over a year's time. They must also take into account *national* debt and performance in inflation and interest and exchange rates but the budget deficit is deemed to be the cardinal test.

Eurostat has approved a series of other controversial budget manouevres, including a switch of state pension funds that is helping to narrow the French deficit this year. Yesterday it said the Italian tax, to be levied this year, qualified as a legitimate fiscal revenue because it would not be repaid. It also gave the nod to other Italian measures involving railway investment.

In an emotional speech in Rome yesterday, Signor Prodi issued a sharp rebuke to Germany for its reluctance to accept Italian membership of EMU. "Europe is not just about a currency, it is impossible to think of Europe cut off from its great Latin culture," Signor Prodi said. "German culture cannot *represent by itself all of Europe.*"

Mobutu returns to France

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

PRESIDENT MOBUTU of Zaire flew back to his holiday villa in the south of France yesterday as South Africa sought to bring together Zairean rebels and government officials for tentative peace talks to end the conflict in eastern Zaire.

Mr Mobutu had an operation for prostate cancer in Switzerland last August. After recuperating in Switzerland and France as Zaire slipped closer to anarchy, he finally returned home in December.

Last month he came back to France for new medical tests and spent a further three weeks in his mansion overlooking the Mediterranean.

During his earlier convalescent periods in the south of France, Mr Mobutu held meetings with various African and French leaders as well as with United Nations officials, but presidential aides did not say whether he was planning any other official contacts during his current stay.

Switzerland has said that Mr Mobutu will not be granted a visa to return there for further cancer treatment, but France has welcomed the Zairean leader in the belief that he still has enough authority to bring order to the chaos in his country.

In Cape Town, Ngbanda Nzambo Ko Ayumba, the Zairean envoy, who is Mr Mobutu's nephew and security adviser, said that Thabo Mbeki, the South African Deputy President, was talking to both sides in the conflict. "South Africa is trying to bring points of view together and pass one side's point of view on to the other," he said in an interview broadcast here by French radio.

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CHANGING TIMES

'Weizman will ask Queen to make state visit to Israel

By Christopher Walker in Jerusalem and Alan Hamilton

THE Queen will be formally invited to pay her first visit to the Holy Land next week during a three-day state visit to Britain by President Weizman, the first by an Israeli head of state since the country's foundation 49 years ago.

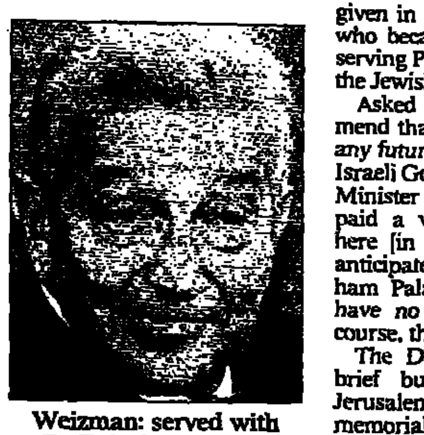
A senior Israeli official said members of the Jewish community in Britain hoped that the visit might be timed to coincide with next year's celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Jewish State.

Buckingham Palace said last night that no invitation for the Queen to visit Israel had yet been received, but that if Mr Weizman did invite her to become the first British head of state to make a formal visit to Israel, she would rely on government advice on whether to accept.

Palace sources said that in the past the Queen had received invitations to visit China and Russia, but in both cases she had waited for several years until the political climate in the host country was judged to be suitable.

British government sources said that security would be a prime consideration in any decision to go ahead with a visit to Israel. If she undertook such a visit the Queen, by far the most travelled monarch in history, would be left with the Republic of Ireland as the only significant country in the world that has not formally received her.

Pressure has been growing for the first official royal visit to Israel since the signing of the 1993 peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israeli officials are confident that previous Foreign Office objections to such a sensitive trip would be overcome. "The UK Jewish community feels a royal visit is long overdue," said the Israeli magazine *Jerusalem Report*.



Weizman: served with RAF during the war

The strongest hint that the Queen will accept Mr Weizman's invitation — which one diplomat described as a "minefield for protocol" — was given in 1995 by John Major, who became only the second serving Prime Minister to visit the Jewish state.

Asked if he would recommend that the Queen take up any future invitation from the Israeli Government, the Prime Minister said: "Prince Phillip paid a very successful visit here [in 1994] and I cannot anticipate decisions Buckingham Palace will take. But I have no doubt that in due course, the Queen will visit."

The Duke of Edinburgh's brief but historic visit to Jerusalem and the Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem was classified as "private". In 1995, the Prince of Wales made a similarily "private" visit to the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister.

While in London, Mr Weizman, a charismatic former fighter pilot who served with the RAF in Egypt and India during the Second World War, will be guest of honour at a state banquet at Buckingham Palace. He will host a return banquet at Spencer House.

☐ **Jerusalem:** Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was warned by police he could face judicial procedures in connection with a scandal over a key government appointment, public television said. Three police officers who questioned Mr Netanyahu told him that his statement may be used to bring charges against him, the station said. Earlier, police said that they had enough evidence to bring charges against at least one senior official in the Government, perhaps within the next few days. *(AP)*

Spitting fine upheld

By Christopher Walker

SPITTING at the sight of the Cross has led to a conviction in an Israeli court.

The judgment received little publicity when it was originally handed down. But on appeal this week, it resulted in the upholding of a two-month suspended prison sentence and a 750 shekel (£150) fine for spitting imposed on a Jew who saw a Cross near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the spot where many Christians believe Christ was crucified.

The Jerusalem District Court heard that the incident took place on March 11, 1995, as a procession of Cross-bearing Armenian priests marched from the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City towards the Holy Sepulchre. Moshe Arenfeld was accused of spitting on the ground when the procession passed him. He denied the act. In the original verdict, Judge Yoel Tsaban ruled that spitting in such a context represented a disturbance of religious observance. He argued that "disturbance does not have to be an act that physically prevents the observance of a ritual".

The judge convicted Arenfeld of religious disturbance. The convicted man appealed, contending that the law grants a man the freedom to spit "even when a Cross is going by".

The appeal stated: "It is impossible to ignore the fact that there is a Jewish custom of considering it a *mitzvah* [a good or charitable deed] to spit" under such circumstances. The appeal court rejected the contention, arguing that freedom of expression has its limits.

MEGAN LEWIS / REUTER

Millions of biscuits end up on the tip yesterday after an extortion threat was received

Biscuit maker dumps stock

Sydney: Australia's biggest biscuit-maker, Arnotts, began *dumping millions* of packets of biscuits yesterday after an extortion threat that forced it to withdraw its stock from supermarkets.

Arnotts said it believed that none of the packets, removed from shop shelves in Queensland and New South Wales, were contaminated but it wanted to be "ultra-safe". Much of the stock disposed of at a Sydney dump had also been damaged when it was cleared hastily last Friday after news of the threat to plant poisoned biscuits in shops was disclosed, the company said.

This week the police called on the extortionist to contact them by next Monday or they would consider the threat ended. The extortionist threatened to poison the biscuits unless police involved in a 1991 murder case took a lie detector test, adding that police lied in giving evidence that resulted in Ron Thomas serving two life sentences for a double shooting murder he did not commit.

Thomas, who says he is innocent, has called on the extortionist to stop his attempt to free him. *(Reuter)*

Texan militia at war with US

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

HIGH in the Davis mountains in western Texas, a militia group is claiming that Texas is a sovereign nation at war with the United States.

Residents fear its increasing campaign of harassment may provoke another Waco, where members of the Branch Davidian cult were killed in a fire at their besieged compound.

Yesterday, Richard McLaren, 43, who calls himself "Ambassador at Large of the Republic of Texas", was due to appear in court for pretrial hearings on charges of burglary, contempt of court and refusal to stop racketeering. He has said he will defy the court orders.

The group's decade-long campaign of "paper terrorism", which aims to choke the Texas courts and banking system with a flood of bogus property claims and bad cheques, has become a focus for Texas's thriving separatist movement. However, federal officials have held back from a showdown with Mr McLaren's group, fearing a repetition of the botched intervention at Waco, eastern Texas, four years ago.

The Waco deaths have since become for Texan militia groups a symbol of the evils of government. Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma bombing suspect, cited Waco as a reason for his actions and the opening of his trial on March 31 in Colorado is expected to stir separatist sentiment.

From his tin-shed "embassy" Mr McLaren threatens that if there is an attempt to cut off his headquarters, "there will be a military reprisal". He claims that 2,000 men — the "Texas Defence Forces" — are ready to defend the "embassy".

His group has "ordered" George Bush Jr, state Governor, and all state legislators to vacate the capitol building in Austin. More seriously, its "paper war" is costing homeowners and businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and bad debts. By filing bogus property claims in court, the group has prevented homeowners from selling and forced them to fight court battles to clear their titles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Elizabeth Taylor recovers

Los Angeles: Elizabeth Taylor was said to be comfortable and recuperating well yesterday after a four-hour operation to remove a tumour from her brain (Giles Whittell writes).

The two-inch growth appeared to be benign but will be analysed in a biopsy to confirm there is no danger of its spreading, Dr Martin Cooper said after the surgery.

Sobhraj set free

Delhi: Charles Sobhraj, the notorious thief and murderer, was freed when the prosecution withdrew charges relating to a 1986 jailbreak. He will be deported to his native France. *(Reuter)*

Marine failure

Washington: Riddick Bowe, the former heavyweight champion of the world, was granted permission to leave the US Marine Corps Reserves, on the third day of his training in South Carolina.

Two Sunnis held

Multan: Pakistani police said they had arrested two Sunni Muslim militants suspected of attacking an Iranian cultural centre here on Thursday in which eight people were killed. *(Reuter)*

Criminal ranks

Lagos: The majority of police officers here are crooks, Abubakar Tsav, the state's police chief told the government-owned *Daily Times*. "They are robbers in police uniform," he said. *(AP)*

Hostages hope

Lima: Talks to free 72 hostages, held for more than two months, took a step forward when the leader of the hostage-takers left his compound for negotiations on neutral ground for the first time. *(AP)*

'Unnatural' sex

Oral sex has been declared illegal in Singapore unless it is practised as a prelude to full sex, the island's Court of Appeal ruled. The court said the practice was "against the order of nature".

First B52 woman pilot faces sex charge

Los Angeles: In a blow for women seeking greater opportunities in the US Armed Forces, the first female air force pilot qualified to fly America's biggest bombers in combat is to be court-martialled on charges of adultery and "fraternisation" (Giles Whittell writes).

First Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, who flies B52 long-range bombers stationed in Minot, North Dakota, faces a possible dishonourable discharge if found guilty of having an "inappropriate relationship" with someone of a lower rank, an Air Force spokesman said. In the meantime she remains on active duty.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1993, Lieutenant Flinn, whose age has been withheld, was certified to fly the B52 in combat two years ago. "In the Air Force, my career has pretty much been in a male-dominated field, so being part of a largely male crew is nothing new. We're one team trying to complete a mission and put bombs on target," she said on her appointment.

First flown in the 1950s, the B52s have been frequently refitted to drop conventional bombs on Vietnam and Iraq. Based in Louisiana as well as Minot, they have also been used to launch cruise missiles.

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North Korea ousts Prime Minister in defection 'purge'

By Robert Whymant in Tokyo and Our Foreign Staff

KANG SONG SAN, the North Korean Prime Minister, has been relieved of his post, fuelling speculation that he is the victim of a purge related to the defection of a close adviser to President Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader.

Radio Pyongyang last night reported that Hong Song Nam, 73, the Deputy Prime Minister, has been appointed acting Prime Minister, but gave no reason for the change.

In Seoul, a senior official of South Korea's National Unification Board suggested that health problems might explain why Mr Kang, 66, has been replaced. He has not been seen in public since January last year, due to illness, the official said.

The timing of the move has prompted some North Korea-watchers to speculate that the defection this month of Hwang Jang Yop, a high-ranking official, has unleashed a purge within the power structure. Mr Kang is believed to have shared Mr Hwang's view that North Korea could overcome its economic problems and famine only by adopting an open-door policy and reforms similar to those of China.

The two men were therefore vulnerable to attack from hard-liners close to Mr Kim, who argued that the radical reforms they favoured would bring down the regime, according to a senior Japanese government source.

Developments in the Stalinist state are shrouded in mystery, but a power struggle appears to be under way in the run-up to Mr Kim's formal accession to power, expected later this year. The government source predicts a further shake-out of senior figures in the ruling structure close to Mr Hwang, whose defection came as a shock to the regime.

North Korea has reversed its position and said it will attend preliminary talks in New York to discuss permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. Pyongyang had been threatening to scuttle the proposed talks, involving the United States and China as well as the two Koreas, unless it received badly needed American grain.

Its announced agreement comes after South Korea and the United States promised millions of dollars in food aid but it remains uncertain whether the preliminary negotiations will lead to full peace talks. However, the North's decision is likely to lead to an easing of tensions between North and South Korea, which are still technically at war after their bloody three-year conflict in the 1950s.

A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry told North Korea's state-run news agency that his country and the United States held talks recently and agreed to go ahead with the briefing, set for March 5, according to the North Koreans.

On Thursday, South Korea said it would donate $6 million (£3.7 million) in emergency food aid to North Korea. Washington has said it will donate $10 million more.

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Seven rivals 'pose risk to Jiang's hold on power'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Jiang Zemin of China has failed to consolidate his grip on power and faces at least seven rivals for influence within the Communist Party, according to a leaked CIA report yesterday.

His shaky control could keep Mr Jiang focused on domestic rather than on global issues, the report said. An American government official familiar with the report said that although Mr Jiang had shown "remarkable staying power", the real test of his leadership skills, in the wake of Deng Xiaoping's death, would come at the 15th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in October.

Without Mr Deng, Mr Jiang faces the curse of Chinese succession. Although he was chosen by the late paramount leader, history is against him. Chairman Mao's handpicked heir, Hua Guofeng, lasted only two years. Even Mr Deng once admitted that for a leader to pick his successor was a "feudal practice".

The secret CIA report, prepared last June, portrayed Mr Jiang's rivals as trying to limit his power before the party congress, even though he is head of state, general secretary of the Communist Party and commander-in-chief. The assessment, by a CIA section that tracks foreign leadership developments, was leaked to *The Washington Times*.

This right-wing newspaper is frequently used as a conduit by the intelligence agency for opinions that it wants to publicise without admitting its authorship. A CIA spokesman said she could not comment on the report.

Whatever the CIA's motives, the leak could be construed as a warning, before Mr Jiang's meeting with President Clinton this year, that China needs international support and should not provoke the United States over the touchy issues of human rights and the handover of Hong Kong.

The report said that Mr Jiang was expected to pursue "less controversial activities" in an effort to build his own stature as well as China's. In fact, there has already been an appreciable warming of Sino-American relations since the CIA report was written and Mr Clinton was re-elected.

The report identified a key rival to Mr Jiang as Qiao Shi, chairman of the National People's Congress, who oversees national security, the police and courts. It said he was openly critical of Mr Jiang's policies towards Taiwan, had contradicted him in front of regional Chinese officials and could emerge as "kingmaker for another challenger".

Other rivals included Li Peng, the Prime Minister, "working to undercut Mr Jiang's authority behind the scenes"; Zhu Rongji, the Deputy Prime Minister who disagreed with Mr Jiang over economic policy; and Li Ruihuan, a politburo member linked with Mr Jiang's critics.

Further potential challengers were said to be Tian Juyun, a political ally of Mr Qiao; Yang Shangkun, 89, a former President who criticised some of Mr Jiang's decisions; and Wan Li, the former chairman of the National People's Congress who is said to be opposed to Mr Jiang over policy on Taiwan.

Jiang: Beijing congress "will be the test"

DYLAN MARTINEZ / REUTE

Chinese troops, members of a guard of honour for official ceremonies, lay down arms during a drill at their barracks in Beijing yesterday

Deng's death mourned strictly to order

BY JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS CHINA entered its first full day of state mourning for Deng Xiaoping yesterday, thousands of official commemorative meetings were held throughout the country by local Communist Party committees, government offices and state-run organisations.

In Beijing's Tiananmen Square, police detained a man as he carried a wreath apparently dedicated to Mr Deng. He was bundled into a car along with the wreath, on which the words "Deng Xiaoping" were written on a ribbon, a witness said.

At Mr Deng's birthplace, thousands of wailing mourners fell to their knees. Armed police were summoned to keep order among the unruly in Paifang village in the remote southwestern province of Sichuan where pilgrims with tear-streaked faces prostrated themselves on the ground. "There are a lot of people crying, some of them young, but most of them are older," said an official at Mr Deng's former home, now a museum.

In Chengdu, Sichuan's provincial capital, with its 120 million population, up to 30,000 people gathered on Thursday night to mark the death of their native son, carrying wreaths in white mourning flowers which were placed in large piles. Hundreds of students marched through Chengdu's streets carrying tributes to the departed leader, who spoke with a thick Sichuanese accent, and banners bearing the signatures of thousands of mourners.

Witnesses said police had to intervene several times to restore order. The Government dislikes such spontaneous displays that are outside its control.

As portrayed on state television here, there was nothing spontaneous about any of the official meetings. Their object was to pay tribute to Mr Deng and his policies and to emphasise the need for China's 1.2 billion population to unite around the leadership of Mr Deng's chosen successor, Jiang Zemin, 70, the party chief, a lacklustre and possibly stopgap figure who is nevertheless constantly referred to as the "core" of the new leadership.

Diplomats see these meetings, which all take the same form and are clearly minutely choreographed from Beijing, as an effort to ensure that the party and state apparatus — and people at large — stay in line, and thus reduce the danger of trouble that any spontaneous, genuine mourning might produce.

"They are terrified of people's human feelings and fear that any outpouring of grief turns dangerous," one envoy said.

Under black banners reading "Comrade Deng will live in our hearts forever", officials paid tribute to Mr Deng's "achievements" and affirmed their determination to carry out the transformation of China he set in motion, a transformation restricted to the economic sphere which *did not permit* any liberalisation in politics.

No venues have been set aside for people to pay their last respects to Mr Deng. State media reported last night that this was in deference to his wish for a simple funeral, though it is believed it was to avoid possible trouble. In 1976, when Zhou Enlai, the revered Prime Minister, died, and in 1989, with the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed party chief, hundreds of demonstrators in Tiananmen Square turned mourning for dead leaders into protests against living ones, and both times troops had to move in to clear the square with loss of life. Tributes, even floral ones, are anathema at Tiananmen.

Hong Kong leader threatens street protests

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE leader of Hong Kong's Democrats, Martin Lee QC, threatened civil disobedience yesterday, including illegal street protests, if China insists on introducing draconian laws to curb Hong Kong's Bill of Rights when it takes over the territory.

"This must be one of the ways for Kong Kong people to express their views," he said. "If the police give us a permit, then we will do it. If they do not, we will do it anyway." His party would refuse to pay any fines they incurred. Mr Lee added that he did not think he would be arrested because he was too well known abroad. He said, however, that he feared his party colleagues would be.

Speaking in London at the end of a tour of European capitals, Mr Lee said he would challenge the new laws in the courts. If they lost, as he was sure they would once a new law on subversion allowed the authorities to declare illegal anything they disliked, he would continue his opposition to any measures introduced to curb democracy in Hong Kong.

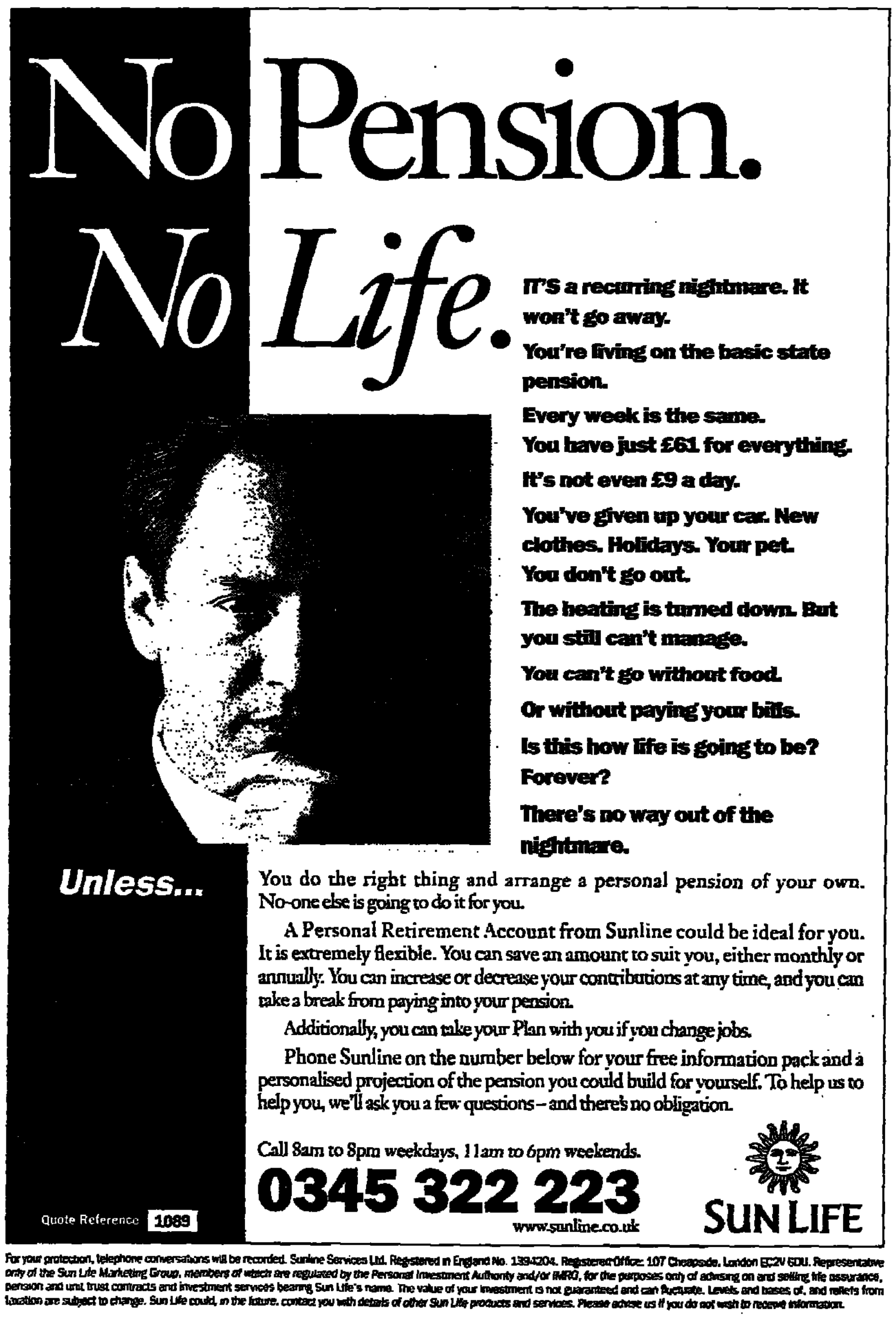
He said he would not emigrate before the handover to China in July. "I feel that the Hong Kong people need a voice. My party is popular because it is the voice of Hong Hong." He said that the moment he left, he would become irrelevant.

The Democrats hold the largest number of seats in the colony's Legislative Council, but none has been selected for the provisional council appointed by Beijing.

Mr Lee welcomed the announcement by Tung Chee-hwa, the chief executive appointed by China to take over in July, that all civil servants would be asked to stay in their jobs. That was an important signal to the colony. "I am giving him the benefit of the doubt," he said. "If he only says things to please the Chinese leaders but then quietly does things for Hong Kong, that is the best we can hope for. But there are certain things where you cannot please both sides."

He criticised Chris Patten, the Governor, for not setting up an independent human rights commission years ago. There was still time for Mr Patten to introduce important reforms, he added — in particular, setting up an independent body to administer legal aid, now controlled by a government department. "Do you think after the handover that anyone will be able to call for legal aid for constitutional challenges?"

Lee: Democrats will refuse to pay fines



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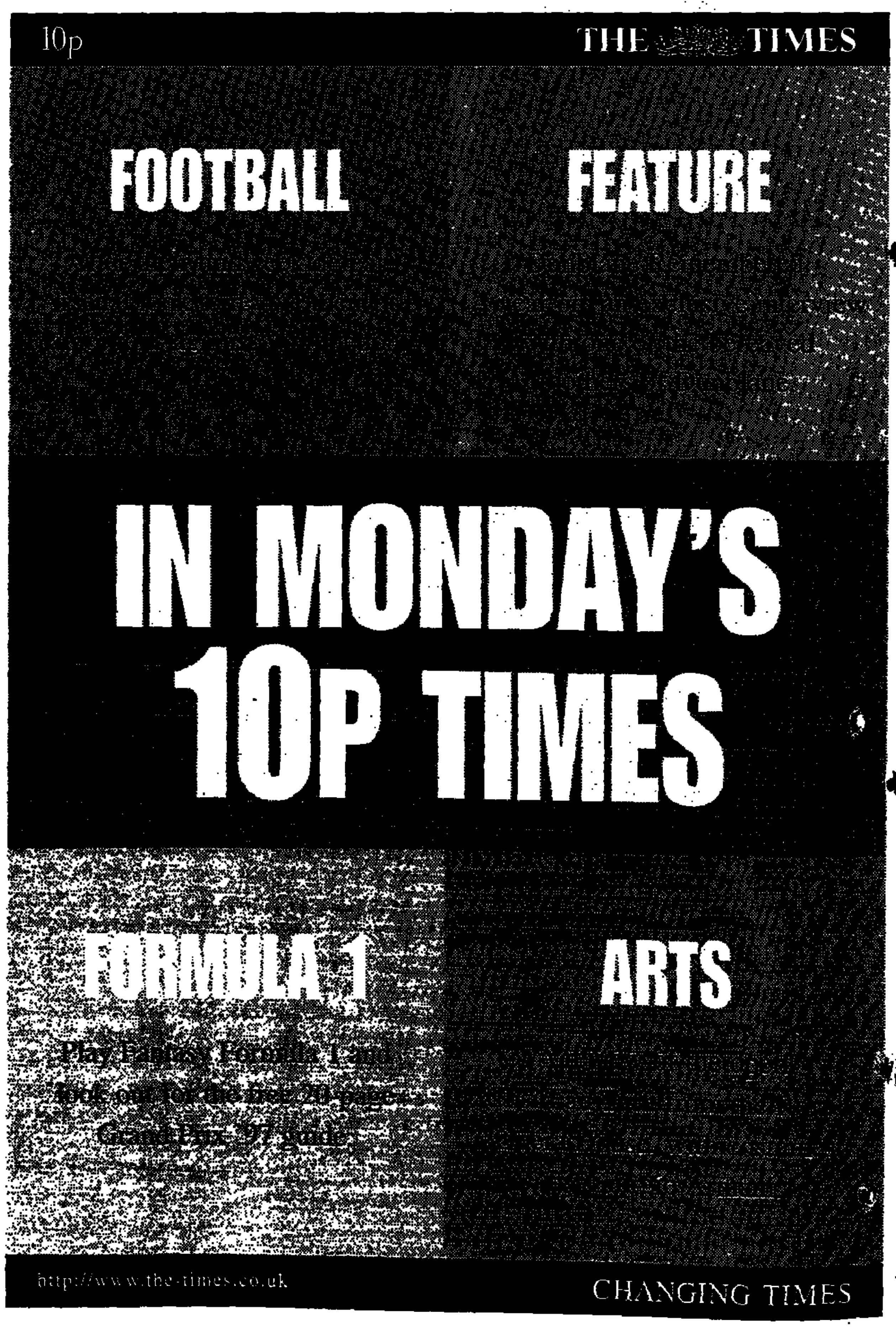

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CHANGING TIMES

Albright fails to convince Kremlin on Nato expansion

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

DESPITE American attempts to reassure Moscow that Nato is no longer a threat, Russia remained opposed to the alliance's expansion eastwards at the end of yesterday's talks with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

"We are still negatively disposed," Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, said, although Ms Albright said that they had made progress on a charter to link Russia to the alliance. Mr Primakov said that it must be binding on both sides and Ms Albright told reporters that question could be worked out.

"The issues are complex and will require a lot of work," Ms Albright added. "We have established a work plan to get as much of this accomplished as quickly as possible. It is on a fast track."

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential press secretary, said there were grounds for optimism after the talks, although "it is premature to talk about a breakthrough" ... "I would rather say one can express cautious optimism."

Both sides said the atmosphere of the talks had been good. Mr Primakov, speaking at a joint press conference with Ms Albright, who is regarded in Moscow as much more of a hardliner than her predecessor, Warren Christopher, described the Secretary of State as "not just an iron lady, but also a very constructive lady". Despite the "negative" disposition towards expansion, "we are doing eveything we can conceivably think of in order to minimise any negative consequences that might arise in the event that Nato does expand," he said.

Television pictures showed Mr Yeltsin clasping Ms Albright's hand warmly as he greeted her in the Kremlin. In an aside to aides at the conference table, he gave a mock warning: "She understands Russian, so we have to be careful what we say."

Ms Albright brought various measures with her to Moscow aimed at softening Russia's stance against the admission of former Warsaw Pact members to Nato, including adjustments to the arms ceilings agreed in the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which Russia has long argued fails to take into account the post-Cold War situation, as well as the charter defining relations between Nato and Russia.

She also proposed the setting up of a joint Nato-Russian brigade, to be used chiefly for peacekeeping. Russian officials have made clear that they are unimpressed by that proposal, a point repeated by Mr Yastrzhembsky yesterday: "In the alphabet of our interests it is somewhere close to the first letter of my name," he said.

However, the main thrust of Ms Albright's talks was to try to convince the Russians that Nato enlargement was aimed at enhancing European security within a system that involved partnership and cooperation with Moscow rather than aggression and hostility.

"A cardinal element of the new situation is that it will no longer be a situation of you versus us," she said. "We are on the same side. Nato and Russia have a mutual interest in preventing instability and threats to security in the coming century."

The Russian side is still holding out for a legally binding agreement, which would give Moscow some say on future developments as well as setting out limits to the deployment of forces and arms in any new countries to join the alliance.

Nato rejects the notion of a legally binding document, although it has given Moscow assurances that no nuclear weapons will be deployed on the territory of new member-states.

The Russian leadership, wary of criticism from nationalists at home, is certainly in no hurry to reach agreement and eager to wrest as many concessions as possible from the alliance before signing any accord.

Magazine, page 8

EPA

President Yeltsin welcomes Madeleine Albright to the Kremlin yesterday. Later, during their negotiations, he remarked in a mock warning to his aides: "She understands Russian, so we have to be careful what we say"

Poles fear alliance 'carve-up'

FROM REUTER IN BRUSSELS

THE Polish Prime Minister, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, visiting Nato headquarters in Brussels to promote Warsaw's membership plans, warned the big Western powers yesterday not to make a deal with Russia without referring to other countries.

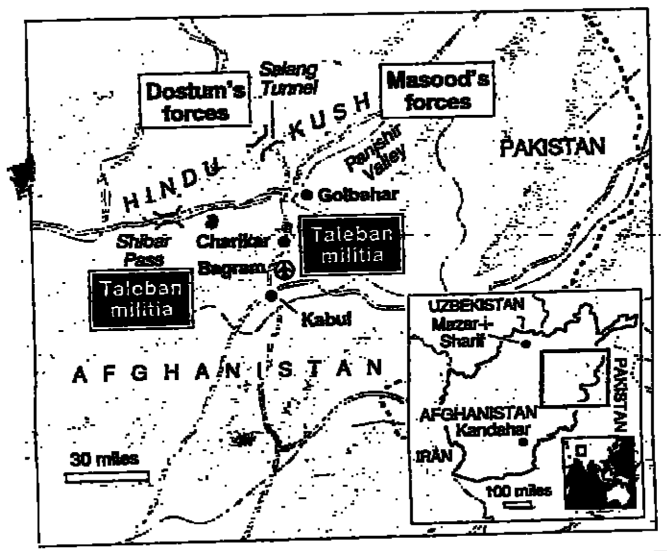
Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said earlier yesterday that she had made important progress on a deal with Russia which is designed to overcome Moscow's hostility to Nato enlargement.

However, Mr Cimoszewicz echoed fears in Eastern Europe and among some Nato allies that the United States and other influential countries might ignore their concerns and push on with a "great power carve-up". Any deal with Moscow, he told the alliance, should be "transparent" and should take into account the concerns of non-members. Poland would not accept any deal that would make it a "second-class" member when it joins.

"In a system of co-operative security, there is no place for geopolitics, spheres of influence, secret protocols or concerts of great powers," the Prime Minister told ambassadors from the 16 Nato nations. "We trust that our Nato partners share this view. We hope so does Russia."

At a Madrid summit in July, Nato will invite some Eastern European countries, which are widely expected to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, to join the alliance.

Market panic as Taleban soldiers buy out their enemies



FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN MAZAR-I SHARIF,
NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

KEFAYAT Market, heart of the money machine of northern Afghanistan, sums up the mood of this vast, strategically vital region: fearful, suspicious, and wondering when everything will collapse in another calamity for this devastated country.

Eighteen years of war have smashed and finally pacified most of the south, east and west of Afghanistan; now it is the turn of the north to feel the terror of invasion, which may come next week, in three months or, improbably, not at all.

The men who deal in sackloads of cash amid the four storeys of screaming chaos that make up Kefayat Market are in panic, their exchange rates doubling and halving against the dollar as news of war ebbs and flows.

The Taleban Islamic army, flush with foreign money and with two-thirds of the country under its control, much of it unhappily, is pressing north towards the final prize: the oil and gas-rich provinces controlled by General Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord of the north.

The hunger for news in Mazar-i Sharif, the principal northern city, is greatest in Kefayat Market, where moneychangers scream over their satellite telephones to Moscow, Tashkent, Peshawar, Kabul and Karachi, changing their exchange rates by the hour.

There are two currencies in Afghanistan, both called the *afghani*, neither worth more than the paper they are printed on. It is symbolic of the state of Afghanistan that its currencies, hauled around like sacks of vegetables, are backed by nothing.

General Dostum prints his own notes by the truckload, probably in Russia, and Taleban has commandeered money from the Government it ousted from Kabul. They circulate together, albeit at different rates. Taleban's remarkable advance through Afghanistan was halted north of Kabul in October by the forces of General Dosrum and his ally, Ahmed Shah Masood, the Tajik warlord fighting for survival in his stronghold in the Panjshir Valley. Taleban has gained territory, capturing important towns and taking its forces to the last valley, Shibar Pass, leading to the northern plains and an open run to Mazar-i Sharif.

Taleban's secret of success is not to fight, but to pay. It bought its way through Afghanistan, paying enemy commanders to step aside and their troops to join up. General Muhammad Yusuf, head of the political section of General Dostum's movement, denied in Mazar that Dostum commanders had been bought off.

He also denied that Dostum commanders had been converting their assets into dollars in readiness to move to the safety of the Central Asian republics should Taleban capture Mazar. Neither denial is convincing: the rumours in the money market, the stories told by prominent citizens, all point to the collapse of morale. The currency has soared in value day by day for the past month, so that it takes only a shopping bag, not a lorry, to carry away the equivalent of $100 (£60).

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Key suspects in Clinton fund scandal invoke right to silence

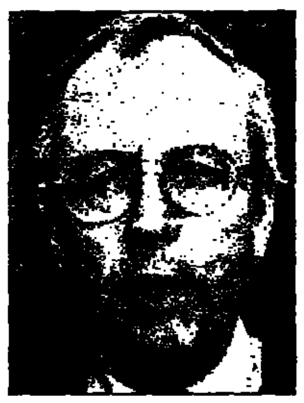
From Tom Rhodes and Bronwen Maddox in Washington

TWO key suspects in President Clinton's fundraising scandal retreated to the shelter of the American Constitution yesterday, invoking the Fifth Amendment to remain silent.

John Huang, the former Commerce Department official at the centre of the investigations, and Webster Hubbell, the former associate Attorney-General, refused to submit subpoenaed documents to Congress and invoked their privilege against self-incrimination.

However, in a letter to the House government and oversight committee, Mr Huang's lawyer agreed to turn over some documents and signalled that his client, a top Democratic fundraiser before Mr Clinton's re-election last year, may be prepared to cooperate if granted immunity from prosecution.

Their refusal fuels the controversy surrounding Mr Clinton's fundraising practices, the target of multiple investigations which are becoming the scourge of his second term. The White House faces a protracted and embarrassing hearing even though the nemesis of Mr Clinton's first four years appeared to be fading. Kenneth Starr, the independent Whitewater counsel, announced this week he would leave for an academic position in California in the summer.



Starr: relief at his departure shortlived

He maintained his departure had no bearing on possible indictments against either the President or the First Lady, but the White House was secretly jubilant.

The joy was shortlived. Asian links to Mr Hubbell, a former Clinton golfing friend released from jail last week after serving 16-months for Whitewater fraud, have served to stir the embers of the failed Arkansas land deal.

Pleading "the Fifth" is a move that is not usually used to block the submission of financial records. And the unusual step may prove provocative to congressional investigators.

At one time Hillary Clinton's law partner, Mr Hubbell has been implicated in both the Whitewater and campaign finance investigations. He was ordered to produce documents to Congress about payments that he received from Clinton allies after he resigned from the Justice Department amid the growing Whitewater scandal in 1994. Mr Starr had also been investigating Mr Hubbell's receipt of $325,000 (£200,000) in fees from various sources.

Two other central figures in the funding controversy, Charles Yah Lin Trie, a Taiwanese former Arkansas restaurateur, and Pauline Kanchanalak, a Thai businesswoman, have also instructed lawyers not to accept subpoenas from the Senate.

The White House said it "respected" the decisions made under advice of counsel but said Mr Clinton wanted "all the facts to come out as quickly as possible".

AP / NASA TV

The space shuttle *Discovery* makes a rare night-time landing at Florida's Kennedy Space Centre yesterday, ending a ten-day mission to complete a $350 million (£217 million) overhaul of the Hubble Space Telescope. The astronauts made five spacewalks during the mission

Love letters reveal Fidel's dialectic of romance

From Tunku Varadarajan in Madrid

SIX previously unknown love letters, written more than 40 years ago by Fidel Castro, were published here yesterday for the first time, revealing that big, bad, bearded dictators can occasionally be great "softies" too.

The letters, obtained from the Cuban President's estranged daughter and published in the newspaper *ABC*, were written by Señor Castro to Naty Revuelta, the wife of a Havana doctor with whom he had a passionate love affair.

Written in 1954 from a prison on Isla de Pinos, the letters are an intriguing blend of the tender and the didactic. In one, he pays this awkward compliment to his lover: "I keep all your letters with me and study them more closely than I would a treatise on psychology." In another, he orders her not to send him a record player — which she wanted to do — as such "luxury" in jail would "mortify" him.

Touchingly, he asks instead for a photograph of Señora Revuelta: "If you do not send me one I will be heartbroken. Why don't you send me more than one? You know I can't see you in person now."

There are some lines of great passion, composed in the stylised manner of a leader accustomed to giving speeches. "You are a woman. Women are the most delicate of all creatures in this world. My companion in happiness, in pleasure, in sentiment, in the past, present and future, in every minute and in a lifetime, you are in the most intimate recess of my heart, where I venerate you and hold you sacred."

In another letter, he writes: "One kiss is very much like another, yet lovers never tire of kissing. There are phrases that are like kisses, like honey that never cloys. This for me is the secret of your letters. They are all delightful, giving me a pleasure of which I never tire. And they are all varied, like the stars, which shine with a different light each night."

There is also, sometimes, a boyish flavour: "Do you really love me? Swear to me! Even more than I do you?" he writes.

Elsewhere, nervously, he says: "Promise me that my letters don't bore you!" He chides his lover, though, for using a typewriter: "Haven't I told you to write by hand instead of on a machine? If that takes too much time, I won't mind if your letters are shorter. But I do love your delicate handwriting, so feminine, so unmistakable." In another letter, he scolds her for addressing him as *amigo* and not as Fidel. Inevitably, though, Señor Castro's politics intrude, often with a great clang. Sentences after writing of his love for Señora Revuelta, he rages against "injustice", demanding that the State "triple taxes on the rich . . . and all those who wallow in luxury".

In describing his daily routine, his reading habits are revealed as rather predictable: "I lie down in bed every night at 11, and read Karl Marx till I fall asleep."

In his penultimate missive from prison, he writes the following, almost as if it were a caricature of a love letter from a jailed revolutionary: "I believe that love also has its dialectic: thesis, antithesis and synthesis — just like a revolution, which would not exist without a counter-revolution."

Leading article, page 23

Havana angered by exiles' planned fly-past

From David Adams in Miami

CUBAN exiles are once again on a collision course with the Government of Fidel Castro over plans for a group of airplanes to mark the anniversary on Monday of the deaths of four Miami aviators shot down a year ago.

American officials say they have briefed Havana on the peaceful intentions of a fleet of 15 aircraft which plan to drop wreaths over the Straits of Florida near the spot where Cuban MiGs shot down two civilian planes, killing all on board.

But Cuba is not happy with the event, which it regards as an act of political provocation, and warned that it "will not permit any type of violation of our territory".

Washington has told Cuban exiles to watch their step and to stay well outside Cuba's 12-mile territorial limits. American officials are especially alarmed by exiles' plans to fly two former Royal Air Force Provost jet trainers, still bearing British military markings.

Officials said the 1950s turbo jet planes, which are collectors items normally exhibited at air shows, may be subject to a restriction limiting them to an area no more than 44 miles south of the Florida Keys, well short of the site for Monday's ceremony. Just in case, US officials plan to monitor the straits with satellite and radar to avoid another confrontation with Cuban warplanes.

The US Atlantic Command also has 30 warships and 100 aircraft currently undergoing military exercises in the Caribbean. However, at the Pentagon, Ken Bacon, a Defence spokesman, said the US military did not "plan any different procedures or heightened alerts on February 24".

The incident last year plunged US-Cuban relations back into a Cold War freeze which shows no signs of warming, and also resulted in an ongoing trade dispute between Europe and Washington over American efforts to extend the reach of its economic embargo against Cuba to punish foreign investors in the island.

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Readers of *The Times* have the chance to enjoy an exclusive preview screening of *The Crucible*, starring Academy Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis, Winona Ryder and Joan Allen. Arthur Miller wrote the screenplay for the film which is directed by Nicholas Hytner (who also directed the award winning *The Madness of King George)*. Four tokens and the voucher entitle you to **TWO** complimentary seats for a screening of *The Crucible* on Monday, February 24.

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CHANGING TIMES

Sweden's welfare ministers fight shy of rendezvous with monetary union

Eurosceptic women run the show in Amazonia

STOCKHOLM FILE

by ROGER BOYES

THERE is a British lager lout view of Swedish women which traces a route from the bouncy actresses in *I Am Curious — Yellow*, through Britt Ekland to Ulrika Johnsson, the Gladiator star.

The clichés centre on Nordic blondeness and a certain lithe athleticism. Well, there are still blondes in Sweden, but the news is that they now run the country and a good many of them are trying to steer the Government away from a rendezvous with European monetary union.

An oddity of the Swedish Cabinet is that exactly half its members are women and they occupy 11 far from marginal portfolios: foreign affairs, agriculture, employment, social welfare, health, justice, transport and environment among them. One woman, Mona Sahlin, 39, narrowly missed becoming Prime Minister last year — she used her government credit card to buy nappies and chocolate for her children — and another is deputy head of the trade union congress. The public services union is led by a woman. Amazonia has taken over in the north.

Since most of the Cabinet posts occupied by women relate directly to the welfare state, which is being pared back in the rush to meet the Maastricht criteria for EMU, it is not surprising that female ministers are among the most Eurosceptical.

Some owe their appointments directly to Goran Persson, the Prime Minister, and are reluctant to depart publicly from the official line of "wait and see" on the euro. A scattered few, such as the Agriculture Minister are enthusiasts. But, in common with the women running the trade unions and ordinary Swedish female voters, many are quietly hostile. Only if a solid case can be made for the job-creating merits of the euro will the mood shift.

Ulrica Messing plays a pivotal role in this calculation. She is the Employment Minister and, at 29, the youngest member of the Cabinet. Her profile is typical for the new breed of women politicians. She did not go to university and rose quickly through the ranks of the Social Democratic Party: she was elected to parliament at 23.

Miss Messing is an unmarried mother and during the week her son, Pontus, five, is cared for by her partner, an unemployed chef. Opposition deputies sneer that she cannot be much of an Employment Minister if she is unable even to find a job for the man she lives with.

"Since there is not a great demand for full-time restaurant chefs, my partner is studying maths and computer sciences to improve his prospects," she explains.

He is, in short, one of the many thousands on training schemes who, added together with the registered unemployed, bring Sweden's jobless rate to 13 per cent.

The growing influence of women on the political system has forced the Government to overhaul its working methods. Margot Wallstrom, the Minister of Culture, 40, conducts most of her departmental business from home in Karlstad, 190 miles south of Stockholm. She drops off her nine-year old at the local school, takes her 16-month-old toddler son to the day-care centre and then enters her study for the morning video conference with her civil servants in Stockholm. Working with document scanners, modems and television monitors, she keeps up this rhythm from Thursday night until Tuesday lunchtime when she travels to Stockholm for Cabinet meetings or embarks on foreign trips.

The reason for this unusual work pattern is the death of her three-day-old son five years ago. The death, she says, made her change her priorities but did not diminish her political ambitions. "My youngest son does not understand the job I do. All he cares about is whether I am there to put him to bed."

The slow conversion of Sweden into an Amazonian state has also made the country think more deeply about what constitutes political success or failure.

Ms Sahlin's meteoric rise in the Social Democratic Party — from a drifting dishwasher with no school-leaving certificate to prime ministerial candidate — came unstuck over money. Yet Gudrun Schymann, the head of the Left Party, turned up visibly drunk at many critical political meetings and slurred her way through conference speeches without an eyebrow being raised. Eventually she went to a clinic to dry out and is now back firmly in charge of her party.

The assessment seems to be: women voters feel sympathy for women politicians with health problems, but are the most censorious if there is any hint of financial corruption.

TORBJORN F GUSTAFSSON / AP

Mona Sahlin, who narrowly missed becoming Prime Minister after she was censured for using her government credit card to buy chocolate for her children

Open government

NOT many British politicians, one suspects, could survive the Swedish system of government. Public scrutiny of credit card receipts toppled the Social Democrat crown princess Mona Sahlin. Under Swedish law anyone is allowed to read the Prime Minister's incoming and outgoing mail. A few letters to statesmen and on matters of security are classified, but it is quite legal to visit the Prime Minister's mail room and flick through his communications with President Clinton or European leaders.

Ice worm eats into Denmark

DENMARK is in the midst of a fierce debate about an ice-worm. That was the code name for a secret American project to make Greenland into a huge nuclear base capable of wiping out much of the Soviet arsenal during the Cold War.

After the building of the Berlin Wall and the Cuba missile crisis in the 1960s, the Pentagon came up with with the idea of building a system of tunnels 312 miles east of the American airbase in Thule on Greenland. There would be firing ramps for 600 medium-range nuclear missiles which, soaring over the North Pole, could have reached 80 per cent of the strategic targets in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The scope was huge: 2,500 miles of piping was supposed to be laid under the Greenland ice; 11,000 American technicians were earmarked for Project Ice-Worm; and the cost was estimated at $2.4 billion.

The base was never built but the revelations — by the Danish Foreign Policy Institute — have rattled Copenhagen. Since the war governments have assured Danes that, despite Nato membership, nuclear weapons would never be stationed in Denmark.

Yet the United States appears to have had nuclear-equipped aircraft in Thule — one crashed in 1968. Danes are angry that past governments could have let themselves in for this kind of blindfolded membership of Nato and are wondering how many more secrets are hidden below the ice.

Danish leader quits over drink driving

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT
IN COPENHAGEN

HANS ENGELL, the Danish Conservative leader, resigned as party chairman yesterday after a car crash — he was found to have broken drink driving limits.

"I have made a serious mistake and must take the consequences. We stand ahead of a decisive political period with several elections ahead and there must be no doubt about the party's prime ministerial candidate," he said in a statement.

Although his party commands less electoral support than the main opposition Liberals, he was seen as a potential candidate for Prime Minister if a centre-right government were returned to power.

In the accident, Mr Engell swerved off the Copenhagen-Elsinore motorway and hit a lamppost, leaving his car a wreck, and injuring himself superficially. Nobody else was involved. Police breathalised him and found him to be well over the legal limit.

A former journalist, Mr Engell, 48, was a former justice minister. He is to remain leader of the parliamentary Conservative group. Political commentators point to Anne Birgitte Lundholdt, the party's political spokeswoman and a former energy and industry minister, as a likely successor.

Dead boar too 'hot' for French hunters

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE ancient sport of wild boar hunting, enjoyed by danger-loving French kings and peasants for centuries, has become potentially even more perilous with the discovery that a beast killed recently in eastern France was highly radioactive.

A group of huntsmen in the forest of Saint-Jean d'Ormont in the Vosges region bagged six wild boar on December 8 last year, one of which was found, after testing, to have three times the highest accepted safe level of radioactivity.

The radioactive cloud from Chernobyl passed directly over the region in 1986, and every year since, the French Ministry of Agriculture has carried out extensive tests on milk, water, mushrooms, and other local produce. Until this week, the ministry's tests had shown no abnormal rise in radioactivity, but the discovery of the radioactive wild boar has raised fresh fears that lingering contamination from the Ukrainian nuclear disaster may be worse than supposed.

Two experts from the French Office of Protection from Radioactivity were dispatched to the Vosges this week to carry out further tests on the suspect wild boar or *sanglier* meat to try to determine the cause of the contamination.

The discovery of the radioactive boar was fortuitous. "A hunter gave a piece of wild boar to a friend in the veterinary services, who carried out his own tests without telling us," Christian Demange, the Mayor of the nearby town of Saint-Dié, who was one of the hunters, said.

Experts at the Independent Centre for Research into Radioactivity in Paris said the levels of caesium-137 and caesium-134 found in the meat were "characteristic of the Chernobyl cloud".

The *sanglier* is the basis of some of France's most famed dishes, as well as wild boar pâté, but researchers insisted that boar hunters are still more likely to be gored than poisoned by the beasts.

At this level of contamination, a fully grown wild boar weighing 340 lb would have to be consumed before exceeding the recommended health limit, an achievement of which only the cartoon boar hunter Obelix the Gaul would be capable.

"They ran very fast," Monsieur Demange said of last December's boar hunt. "Now I know why. They were nuclear powered."

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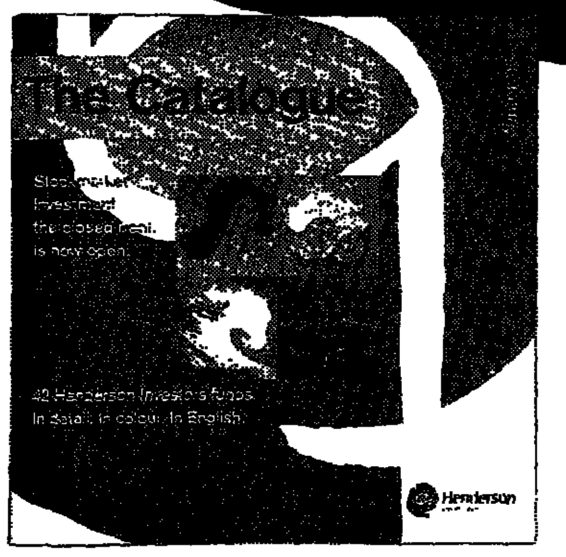
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■ OPERA

Mobile phones and cameras find their way into English Touring Opera's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*

■ CONCERT

Hidden surprises as Michael Tilson Thomas and the LSO celebrate Debussy at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

■ ON MONDAY

Melvyn Bragg in praise of one of the greatest institutions in the land: the lending library

■ ON MONDAY

How four of the most enterprising West End hits of recent years have found their way onto the TV screen

Canvas of note

CONCERT

LSO/Tilson Thomas
Barbican/Radio 3

MICHAEL Tilson Thomas revealed on Thursday the first panel of his triptych of beautifully ordered programmes celebrating *Debussy — Painter of Dreams*, part of Radio 3's vast tribute to the music of our time, *Sounding the Century* (*Hilary Finch writes*).

Nocturnes — for Tilson Thomas the starting point of modern music — and *La Mer* framed an evening of less frequently heard solo-orientated works. Yet, already within *Nocturnes* the solitary voices were there. Tilson Thomas's cueing of several of the London Symphony Orchestra's wind and brass principals for applause reflected his emphasis on the orchestra as a band of soloists in this music, teasing out the illusion of improvisation.

Solo writing as display, though, was anathema to Debussy, and both his *Rhapsody for Clarinet* and the *Rhapsody for Saxophone and Orchestra* were wheedled out of him in spite of himself. The first was written as a competition piece for conservatoire students: and the second as a response to a persistent American lady who had been prescribed the saxophone as relief for respiratory problems.

Andrew Marriner's imaginative clarinet playing took his *Rhapsody* far beyond the virtuoso testing grounds. And John Harle relished both the haunting calls and replies to his orchestral woodwind colleagues, as well as the Moorish arabesques cued in by the rattle of a tambourine. The saxophone, though, remained underexploited. Not so the human voice in the *Trois Ballades de François Villon*. The Swedish baritone Peter Mattei's grasp of Debussy's recreation of the medieval archaism of these texts was total. He brightly animated each word of the opening lovesong, and the prayer to the Virgin found a new translucency in his voice.

The real revelation of the evening, though, was the LSO's understated performance of *Berceuse Héroïque*: the contradiction within its title reflecting the unease with which Debussy fulfilled this commission for the war effort in 1914. Britten surely remembered its dark harp and cello sonorities and its tremulous string chords when he pondered the images of this war in the aftermath of a conflict Debussy was never to see.

OPERA IN CAMBRIDGE AND LONDON

Techno crass

The Marriage of Figaro
Cambridge

There is only one place in which a mobile phone is more annoying than in a railway carriage, and that is on the operatic stage. It is becoming every bit as common in one as in the other, and in the latter it seems to serve as a talisman to reassure everyone concerned — director, audience and sponsors — that here is a production which will be regularly accessible, comprehensible, communicative: a veritable one-to-one, no less.

English Touring Opera have also fallen for the old trick. At the Cambridge Arts Theatre, Figaro and Susanna are summoned by one: Bartolo addresses his first aria to one. Basilio, in case you were wondering, is a pimp who teaches aerobics (although they don't do a lot for his vocal muscle): the Count a high-class photographer (more Kookai than Snowdon); Susanna the new model/PA he has his eyes and hands on.

Meanwhile, Figaro and Cherubino hang around, trying to fit rather awkwardly into the general plan of things, while the Countess watches a video of Stephen Medcalf's Glyndebourne *Figaro*.

Medcalf, by the way, directs this *Figaro* too. He has doctored Amanda Holden's translation to accommodate words such as "Prozac", and "the Count's floozy". That is the description of Susanna — and it is taken at its word.

And herein lies the pity. For under the glitzy, laboured details of this production lies a vacuum of characterisation and idea. Susanna (a pert, soubrettish Anna-Clare Monk) remains a floozy — which is not quite what Mozart's music would have us believe. The dark complexity of the relationship between the Count and Countess is drawn only sketchily: what a missed opportunity with an elegant mahogany baritone such as Riccardo Simonetti's, and artistry of real substance and maturity within the burnished soprano of Elena Ferrari.

But when this *Figaro* comes your way — to Poole next week, on to Brighton, and then to 13 more destinations between now and May — enjoy Matthew Hargreaves's resonant Figaro, Michelle Walton's full-voiced Cherubino and Andrew Greenwood's lively pacing in the pit. But remember, there is a lot more to it than meets the lens of Medcalf's camera.

HILARY FINCH

Matthew Hargreaves and Anna-Clare Monk in *Figaro*

Hidden talents

Trinity College of Music
Camden Centre, NW1

THERE were too many instances of the wilful mishandling of young artists in the Trinity College of Music's triple bill of works inspired by Cocteau, a potentially engaging evening mounted in collaboration with the London Contemporary Dance School and the Rose Bruford College at the Camden Centre.

There was little to complain about musically, though: the wise and experienced Diego Masson led the willing College Symphony Orchestra through as lean and sprightly accounts of Satie's *Parade* (1917) and Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* (1927) as the hall's resonant acoustics allowed (the typewriter was inaudible in the Satie, although the pistol shots rang out bravely).

There was no attempt at the historical in *Parade* (Picasso, constructivist costumes and so on), probably wisely: the young dancers performed amiable, defiantly non-contemporary choreography by Mark Baldwin that was as anonymous as their costumes.

Things started to go wrong with Julia Hollander's production of Poulenc's *La Voix humaine* (1959). The orchestra remained on stage, with the acting area down the middle of the hall and seats to either side. Since Julie Leyland spent much of the time on the floor, and was encouraged to sing while on it, she remained invisible (and indeed inaudible) to most of the audience for long stretches. Video cameras occasionally supplied close-ups of her feet on tiny screens — not wildly helpful. Had she been on a rostrum in front of the orchestra, Leyland — whose bright, creamy soprano and vibrant presence promise much — might have been able to give a performance to remember. If the conductor, Dominic Wheeler, overwhelmed her too often, it was not altogether his fault.

Hollander's messy staging of the Stravinsky was jam-packed with "ideas". Jocasta had one — or was it two? — alter egos. Creon had outsize hands but, since he was in the balcony, half the audience couldn't see him. We were treated to a slide-show of river views. The Narrator, giving a fair impersonation of Virginia Bottomley, donned Jocasta's frock and went off with Oedipus in a false happy end. Video cameras supplied arty little freezes. Gosh.

In an ideal world, directors of students would ensure that their charges are both visible and audible, *then* start having "ideas". Two, however, showed great promise: the bass Pauls Putnins as Tiresias (fruity sound, imposing presence) and Rebecca Smith (Jocasta), a spirited *spinto* in the making. The title role is a killer for a young singer, and Glenn Bramley coped with it honourably.

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■ OPINION

Classical CDs: it's not the quantity that counts these days, it's the quality

■ FILM

Sixties director Sam Fuller is alive and well and living in Paris, and the subject of a Channel 4 season

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE

Only towards the end of Mick Mahoney's *Swaggers* does a proper stage play start to emerge

■ GOING OUT

From Peter Bowles in the West End to the big pop concerts: all the top attractions are in The Directory

Spice Girls sell, but noble they're not

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

There are few sights more distressing than that of a record company fat cat shouting about how much dosh he has made from selling pap to gullible kids. But put that snobbish distaste on hold, you unpatriotic lot! This week it is *British* fat cats who are strutting and preening. New figures reveal that our pop songs are doing for British exports what the Spice Girls do for my tired old ticker. CD sales are booming. Profits are up, up, up. Across the globe, Britannia rules the airwaves.

It's all good news, then? Well, apparently not. In Britain no silver lining comes without a cloud, and this cloud hangs over classical music. Even as the pop moguls hand round the champagne and obligatory spliffs at the Brits Awards on Monday, the classical music world will be shrouded in *Götterdämmerung* gloom.

Classical albums, it seems, now account for just 7.5 per cent of CD sales. True, they never did great business. The worry today, however, is not the quantity being sold so much as the quality. Aside from "celebrity" discs (*Bathtime with Placido* and suchlike) and cult records such as Gorecki's Third Symphony that are plugged incessantly on Classic FM, the only classical CDs now selling well are compilations: repackaged titbits from old recordings. For new, full-price CDs of mainstream repertoire there is almost no demand. Everything has been recorded, perfectly, 12 times already.

That didn't matter in the days when record companies were run by cultured people. It was accepted that profits from pop songs would cross-subsidise classical records. Pop brought cash, classics brought prestige: that was the theory.

Alas, such benign management was long ago flushed out of the big record companies. Hard-nosed marketing men bark the orders now, and classical artists must make handsome profits or be axed. It's a regrettable change of attitude, because by subsidising classical CDs the record business was doing its bit to support orchestral and choral life. But the change is here to stay.

So is the classical music world crumbling as a result? It is easy to jump to this conclusion. Indeed, one British journalist has made a career out of writing the obituary of orchestral life, over and over again. And prophecies of doom are often self-fulfilling. If enough people become convinced that classical music is dying, it will.

Yet I believe that classical music has a great future. Am I mad? Probably. But consider this: first, although the major record companies may have given up on the classics, plenty of independents are filling the gap. By using little-known performers and pricing their CDs sensibly, brilliant labels such as Naxos are achieving phenomenal sales.

And the incidental fact that some allegedly famous classical performers no longer enjoy the endorsement of big record companies is no bad thing. For years they have been charging grossly inflated performance fees on the strength of their supposed crowd-pulling, CD-selling powers. Now that this charade is exposed, our opera houses and orchestras should boldly negotiate much lower fees, cut ticket prices, and attract younger audiences.

Secondly, Britain's concert life now is incomparably richer than it was in any mythical "golden age". Think back just 30 years. London had no Barbican or Queen Elizabeth Hall, Birmingham no Symphony Hall, Manchester no Bridgewater Hall, Glasgow no Royal Concert Hall, Ulster no Waterfront, Poole no Arts Centre, Snape no Maltings . . . you can fill in the rest. Classical music was stuffily presented for a few hours a day on *Radio 3*; now it comes round the clock on both Radio 3 and Classic FM. The great British youth orchestra movement had barely begun: now it is a national glory. And so on. I am not complacent; but any theory that classical music in Britain is retreating in tatters is demonstrably bonkers.

Thirdly, the CD will not be the predominant musical medium for much longer. Classical musicians should be thinking five years into the future — when films, concerts, operas and ballets are piped into every home and school through the Internet or digital TV. The first orchestras quick-witted enough to exploit this potentially vast market will hit a jackpot bigger than anything scooped during the boom years of stereo recording.

Finally, orchestras have a potential ace to play, and it is this. The pop business largely reduces music to "product" and us, the public, to the status of passive imbibers, required only to buy CDs and play them. By contrast, the most exciting trend in the orchestral world is to involve schools, indeed whole communities, as creative partners. The aim is to remind people that it is more rewarding to be a music-maker than a mere music-consumer. And that task is an increasingly crucial one, because in our materialist age the overwhelming pressure is all the other way: for the public to buy more and more, and do less and less.

Of course classical musicians can never beat pop groups in the commercial marketplace. But why should they? Who says that music's value can be measured only on a balance sheet? Classical musicians should stop fretting about dubious statistics. The noble ideals and aspirations which made them take up music in the first place are more relevant today than ever.

It's all Viennese, cross my jam

THEATRE

Swaggers
BAC, SW11

IF YOU feel like believing what Mick Mahoney has to say about London villains, you can try out his rhyming slang on the next likely lad you want to postpone dealing with. "Moon," you say, and he will know this is short for mooncrater, ie, "later". If he stares back as blankly as the Moon itself, then either he or Mahoney are having you on, mate. Or "five-bar", as they may well say down at Kojak's or wherever the mob are hanging out these days. Me, I think Mick's definitely got his tongue in his bubble.

This is his tenth play, the first for quite a while, but back in the early Eighties he was churning them out, raw slices of street life that earned him accolades for telling it like it is. For all I know, Nance and Dee and John (known as "the great Moonie"), who work in a swag shop run by Michael and Tess, are all accurately telling it like it is today. It just sounds too much, that's all I'm saying, cross my jam.

A swagger deals in fake designer clothes and perfumes, and as Michael also deals in stolen software this takes him into areas where you don't want to be slow in paying what you owe. I mean, the Baileys aren't the sort of people you cross at all, let alone lightly. The great Moonie has just come out of jail and is sleeping on the premises. Peter Hugo Daly plays him as a shambolic sort of character, but possessed of a watchful eye and a permanent broken smile that must be seriously traumatising his facial muscles. He's actually some kind of murderer, but basically the hero.

Dee (Carol Harrison) and her niece Nance (Rhona Mitra, utterly riveting in red plastic) belong to a criminal aristocracy that goes back 150 years, so why they demean themselves with the likes of Michael or Tess (Rupert Farley, Helena Cullinan) I never understood. But there was a great deal I failed to understand, even when I had picked my way to the end of a slang-packed sentence and worked out the gist. Mahoney seems to have based his play's structure on television soaps: lots of aggro, voices raised, quick exits.

When the storylines began cohering towards the end a stage play started to emerge from the scraps. I specially liked Dee's "I want to be loved! I want big arguments in Ikea!" It didn't sound real, but then the more Mahoney, who also directs, aimed for the real the more false it sounded. Or the more Viennese, as they probably say at Kojak's.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Madness in Fuller's earth

W. Stephen Gilbert on a Sixties film guru getting the TV treatment

Sam Fuller, the master at making the most film for the least money, whose work is the subject of a new Channel 4 series and introductory documentary

The first time I saw *Shock Corridor* was at a late show at the Screen on Islington Green way back in the early Seventies. The queue stretched into and up Upper Street. By the time we got in, the auditorium was chock-full so we found ourselves squatting four deep on the floor ahead of the front row of the stalls.

Made in 1963, the movie was what we then were apt to call "a blast". It just took you by the scruff and shook you until you yelled for mercy.

Shock Corridor is the sixteenth of the 23 movies made by Samuel Fuller. Born in 1911, Fuller is alive, pretty well, living in Paris and one of the last few survivors of the buccaneering tradition of movie-making that died out in the Sixties. He has been a true *auteur*, customarily taking the credit "written, produced and directed by", even when working within the Hollywood studio system.

Though filming for Zanuck at Fox and Cohn at Columbia, Fuller chose to keep it small, tight and cheap. Most of his movies run under 90 minutes and were made inside a month. Many of his scenes are taken all in a single shot, requiring from him the discipline of paring scripts to the bone and of editing that never holds a scene beyond its use to the action.

Stephen Frears, who keeps one directorial foot in Hollywood, acknowledges Fuller's inspiration in trying to maintain such a balance. "He wasn't going to do what they told him because that would have bored him," he says, "but he needed the system to make his films. That's what we all want to do, to be in and out of it at the same time. That's why people like Marty revere him."

Marty — Martin Scorsese — is among several contemporary American movie-makers who talk warmly and analytically about Fuller in a documentary, *The Typewriter, the Rifle and the Movie Camera*, which will introduce a Channel 4 late-night season of nine Fuller classics. *Shock Corridor* ends the run, on March 26. The opener is *Park Row*, a masterpiece not seen on any screen for two decades.

Park Row is a thrilling, moving, hugely dynamic story of "the birthplace and graveyard of great headlines". Fuller's fifth movie, it is his most excitingly realised, with pell-mell travelling shots up and down the studio-built street and his trademark crane shots that abruptly give a (false) sense of opulence.

"That's how you learn to make films cheaply," explains Frears. "Don't muck about. Then, when you can, do a great shot. If you shoot a scene in one, you can ride the schedule. Once you get behind, your back's to the wall."

The downside of low-budget filming is that you often have to accept humdrum performances. Fuller only once worked with a true headlining star — Barbara Stanwyck in *Forty Guns* — and cunningly he holds back her first dialogue scene for almost 20 minutes. But many second-division players found that Fuller characters raised their own game: Robert Stack in *House of Bamboo*, Cliff Robertson in *Underworld USA* and, along with Richard Widmark, Thelma Ritter, who was never finer than in Fuller's *Pickup on South Street*.

In the documentary, Fuller's speech (to fellow film-maker Tim Robbins) veers between the sharp and the plain loopy. He clearly enjoys playing the guru. The producer of *Trainspotting*, Andrew Macdonald, kept a video diary at the Edinburgh Film Festival the year Fuller was a guest, and old Sam gave Macdonald and his writer John Hodge hours of interview and free advice about their unrealised project that would become *Shallow Grave*. And he cautioned them on handling Hollywood: "Don't worry about the ageing blondes clinging on to you at the swimming pool. Just make what you want to make."

Fuller's own preoccupations — orientalism, the conduct of war and the fate of war veterans, race hatred, the rehabilitation of prostitutes, organised crime — make him in varying degrees unfashionable, but his broad themes and qualities — energy, revenge, redemption, betrayal, creativity — are as urgent as ever.

Perhaps the madness in Fuller's work speaks most directly to us. In *Shock Corridor*, a crusading journalist puts his own sanity on the line and gets himself incarcerated in a mental institution. Andrew Macdonald reports that he, Hodge and the director Danny Boyle have been asked by both Paramount and Disney to remake this extraordinary picture, "because of the doctors angle, I imagine". As it happens, when they were talking to the guru, Macdonald found a video of *Shock Corridor* at John Menzies, bought it and got Fuller to sign it. You could say Fuller's signature is on a lot of contemporary young independent film-making.

● *Channel 4's Sam Fuller season begins on Tuesday night*

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The rich do not need new planning orders to help them build grand houses — but owners of older piles are struggling

Stately homes of England in the lurch

The end was nigh. The medieval house was as down-at-heel as its ancestral owner. But Miss Matilda Talbot of Lacock Abbey could not resist her love of entertaining. Her "hops" in the great hall on winter evenings could not be refused without offence. She combed Wiltshire for young ladies, who came "exceptionally plain and utterly speechless". As James Lees-Milne recalls in his diary, "To an ancient gramophone which required winding every two minutes, we danced the Roger de Coverley while the fog swirled against the Gothick windows, and indoors a green yule log emitted such dense smoke that the guests were blinded and choking."

In the 1930s, the stately homes of England were collapsing into the arms of the National Trust or Mother Ruin. Deserted by their inheritors, crippled by debt, the servants dead or fled, the silver sold, they faced extinction. One by one, they were demolished, institutionalised or nationalised. For half a century, that has been their perceived fate. To take on a stately home, let alone to build a new one, has been seen as a clear sign of madness.

Yet last week an intriguing passage appeared in a dry Whitehall document called PPG7 (Revised). These are the planning orders by which Britain is truly governed. They have more impact on the appearance and character of the nation than a hundred subsidies, policy initiatives and short-term gimmicks emanating from Downing Street. Yet they pass by unnoticed in the Westminster chatter. The country they govern is one which Westminster rarely visits, namely provincial Britain.

It was a previous PPG, issued by Nicholas Ridley, that spawned the out-of-town shopping centres, caravan sites and bungalow estates that are ruining more British landscape than anything since the suburban sprawl before the last war. Planners and inspectors were encouraged to ignore town centre shopping, consume countryside and pour traffic onto rural roads. The Ridley document is recognised to have been a catastrophe, but the damage is done.

The new guidance, from John Gummer, cannot undo this damage. But it wants new country development to avoid such spoliation. It worries over design and seeks to rectify some of the ugliness associated with modern farming. Countryside should be respected and "isolated houses" avoided. So far so good. However, and this brings us back to Lacock, some isolated houses are a good thing. A new house is welcome if it can "add to the tradition of the Country House which has done so much to enhance the English countryside". Such a house must be "clearly of the highest quality, truly outstanding in terms of its architecture and landscape design". As he yearns to be progenitor of new cathedrals and new bridges, Mr Gummer yearns also for new stately homes.

My first thought is that ministers crave landed-gentry status after the election. As they salivate over the options flowing from post-privatisation directorships, they already plan the barony and the Barsetshire estate. A neo-Wrennaissance pile by Quinlan Terry in the Cotswolds would do nicely. But PPG7 must not stand in the way. Hence Mr Gummer's little easement.

This is all most odd. Large country houses are still being built in England. The architectural historian, John Martin Robinson, estimates that 400 substantial "country houses" have been built in England since the war, with no help from PPG7. Architects such as Julian Bicknell, John Outram, Denys Lasdun, Robert Adam and Quinlan Terry have designed them. Families such as Getty, Rausing, de Ferranti,

Simon Jenkins

Baring, Sainsbury and Westminster have immolated the requisite fortunes. The houses may not rank with Blenheims. Nobody today wants a hundred bedrooms and everyone wants privacy. But these houses have rescued the English countryside from golf courses, agribusinesses or worse fates. They are welcome and they are happening.

Mr Gummer's help is needed elsewhere on this front. It is in rescuing the 150 or so existing big houses in England and Wales at imminent risk of dereliction. They and their parks (catalogued by Save Britain's Heritage) are desperate for salvation, and without anyone needing to seize existing countryside for new building. They include Thoresby Hall in Nottinghamshire, Astley Castle in Warwickshire, Gwyrch Castle on the North Wales coast, Poltismore House in Devon, Gibside in Durham, Downe Hall, a Palladian mansion in Dorset whose park is on the brink of becoming a housing estate. Mr Gummer might attend to Tortworth Court in Gloucestershire, by his favourite architect, Samuel Teulon.

The National Trust has exhausted its ability to come to the aid of such casualties. The emphasis is back on the private sector. This sector needs no help in building new buildings, but suffers extraordinary government hostility in salvaging old ones. Mr Gummer still imposes VAT on repairs to old buildings, while lifting it from new ones. Grants to restore private houses have been curtailed. Private owners cannot receive lottery money. Running a stately home is to endure a fiercely discriminatory supertax.

What is most astonishing about the past 50 years is not the rescue by public authorities of so many doomed great houses. It is that devoted private owners have stepped forward (or stayed on) to prop up the rest. I can think of nothing bleaker than spending years pouring money into an ancient pile, its rooms leaking and deserted, its children gone, help impossible to find, the weekdays long and lonely. Yet flip through the official *Historic Houses Guide* and you can reel off the names of the wealthy, the dedicated, the eccentric and the mad who have picked up the banner of stately home ownership and carried on the fight.

There are the Cobhams of Hagley, the Comptons of Newby, the Howards of Castle Howard, the Phillips of Kentwell, the Seymours of Thrumpton, the Saunders Watsons of Rockingham, the Cobbolds of Knebworth, the Montagus of Beaulieu, the Weeks of Penhow, the Probys of Elton, and dozens more. I doubt if one of them is keeping up the house to make money. They are struggling to make money to keep up the house. These are the small platoons of private enterprise that we should honour. Here is where PPGs should be aimed and incentives and honours given. Time was when "every great estate deserved a title". Perhaps those times are here again.

What has truly changed over the past 50 years is the acceptance that great houses are not just personal property. When Lees-Milne traipsed round the "embarrassed" estates of England for the National Trust in the 1930s, he met utter dismay that estates should be alienated from families that had held them for centuries. At Attingham in Shropshire, Lord Berwick was too humiliated even to talk about a sale. He shrugged and eventually died. During negotiations at Lyme in Cheshire, Lord Newton "sighed from morning to night, while Lady Newton lay prostrate on the sofa". Assets had become liabilities and it all seemed unfair. With some difficulty, the Trust tried to keep some link between a family and its house after transfer. It was not easy.

Today we treat most great houses as in some sense the nation's collective inheritance. Most were built from the tithes, rents and taxes of the community. Like churches, they belonged as much to neighbourhoods as to families. Mark Girouard has shown that houses and castles were open to allcomers at least into the 18th century. They were communities within communities.

The grand house in its estate is Britain's most distinctive and lasting contribution to European culture. Nobody does them like us. Mr Gummer is right to hope that private owners can uphold that reputation. But he needs a different PPG. New country houses will build themselves. Old ones are the challenge.

Tradition and the politics of Babel

Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, traces the origins of our political crisis to the eclipse of Judaeo-Christian morality since the Enlightenment

The Politics of Hope is an unusual, in fact unique, book for a Chief Rabbi to have written. It is not about Judaism. It is written, not for Jews especially, but for all of us as members of a liberal democratic society. It is not about religion, except in the most general sense that its central concern is about how we can learn to live peaceably, responsibly and graciously together — a concern which morality, politics, religion and secular humanism all share. To write it, I have had, as it were, to disrobe and immerse myself in literatures I had never before studied. I did so because of my concern about certain acute structural weaknesses in contemporary society, and my dismay at the quality and depth of our public conversation as we approach the millennium and think about our collective future. The book is about a certain kind of crisis within Western liberal democracies, and how it might be overcome by a new and more effective style of politics.

My argument can be stated simply. There are two concepts of a free society, one liberal, the other libertarian. For the past 50 years the libertarian view has prevailed. Shared by British and American politicians on the Left and Right, it maintains that a free society is ideally one in which individuals are left free to pursue their own choices. The central question of politics is whether this is best achieved by governments doing as much as possible or as little: should we have a maximalist or minimalist State? The maximalists argue that the task of the State is to give everyone as far as possible the resources with which to pursue their private vision of the good life. The minimalists argue that this is best done by the opposite strategy, namely by leaving as many resources as possible in the hands of individuals.

Philosophically, the debate has been between John Rawls and Robert Nozick. Economically, it has been between Keynes and Milton Friedman. Politically, it has been between the Roosevelt-Beveridge vision of a welfare state and the "small government" programmes of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. But both sides share an ideal, however deeply they differ in the means they adopt to achieve it: namely, of an arena in which the State guarantees the freedom of the individual to realise his or her own choices. Morality has no part to play in politics beyond fair procedures and the transparency and accountability of governments. All significant moral decisions are to be made by individuals. Indeed, morality itself is a purely individual concern. On both views the key players — the only players — are the State and the individual. Beyond that, as Margaret Thatcher once said, "There is no such thing as society. There are individual men and women, and there are families."

This is a tenable view, and there is only one thing to be said against it. It has been tried and it has failed. It has given rise to a social order — or more precisely, to a social disorder — more bleak than any within living memory. Today many parts of Britain and America are marked by vandalism, violent crime and a loss of civility; by the breakdown of the family and the widespread neglect of children; by an erosion of trust and a general loss of faith in the power of governments to cure some of our most deep-seated problems; and by a widespread sense that matters crucial to our future welfare are slipping beyond our control.

> Some moral issues are private, but not all are

It is not my intention to criticise the past, second-guess the leaders of an earlier generation, or adopt the false righteousness of hindsight. The politics of the past have run their course, and we must search for a new way.

Fortunately, this is less difficult than it seems. We are able to go back to the writings of those who set out on the path towards a free society and reacquaint ourselves with what they had in mind. As soon as we do this we discover in many cases that their concerns are uncannily like ours, and they had wise things to say which we have since forgotten. Their view of politics was liberal rather than libertarian. Their central question was: how can we create a society in which everyone can participate, and everyone achieve the maximum possible dignity? Their answer was not to privatise morality and rule it out of order in political debate. Some important moral issues are private, but not all are. In particular, it is impossible to create a good society without a vigorous process of public debate and without some consensus about the kind of society we wish to create. Nor is the creation of society a matter, simply, of state action on the one hand and the private choices of individuals on the other. Societies are made not just by states and individuals, but also and crucially by what we do, severally, freely and together in a thousand local contexts and constituencies. If libertarianism is a politics of interests, liberalism is a politics of involvement.

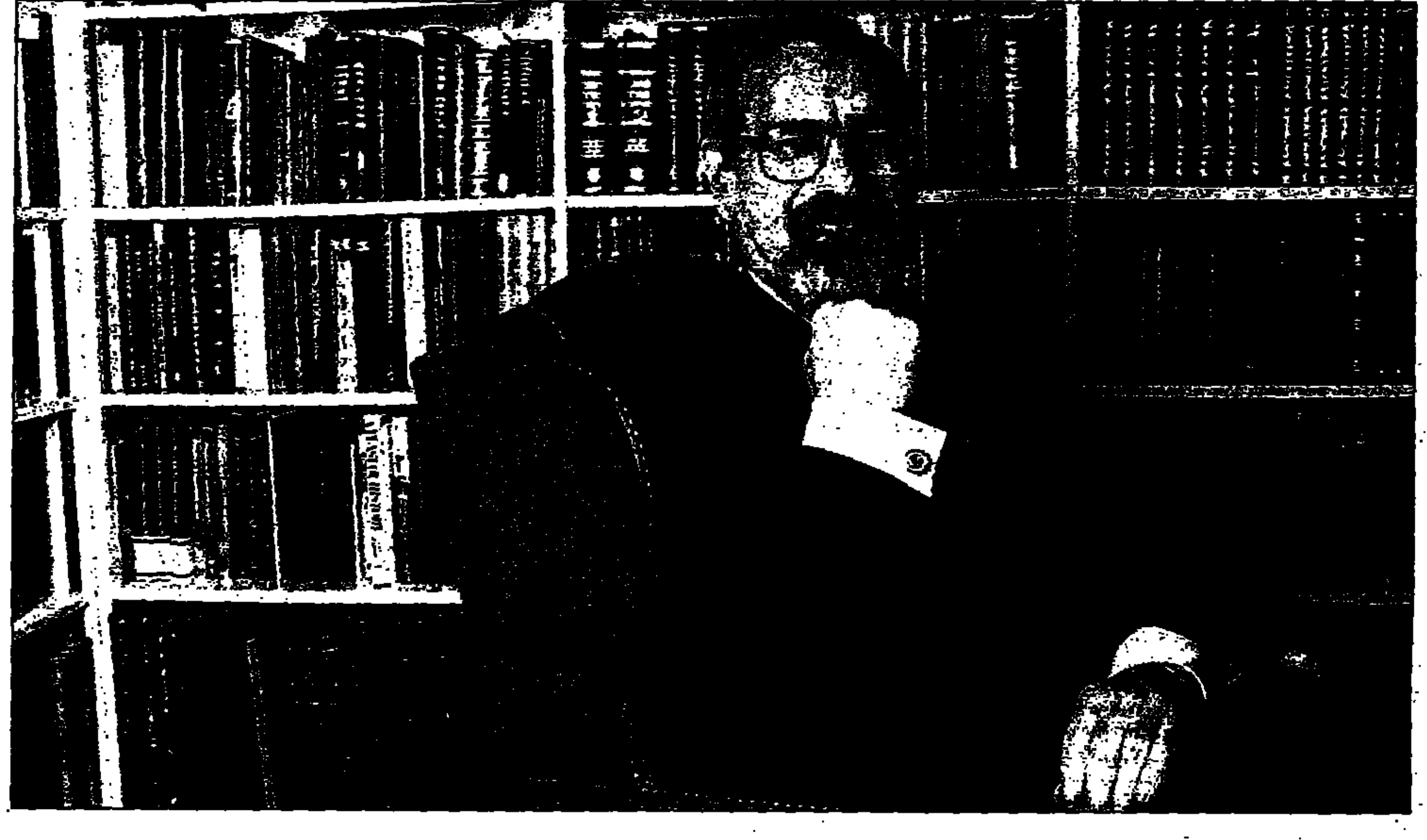
The good news is that wherever this kind of politics has been tried, it works. Compared to libertarianism, it yields a social order in which we are less vulnerable and confused. Above all, it is the most powerful available antidote to despair, because it leaves us less exposed to forces beyond our control, to decisions in which we do not have a part. These are my views, but not mine alone. Increasingly, they have come to be shared by philosophers, economists, social commentators and literary critics. Most importantly, they have begun to be adopted by politicians at both ends of the political spectrum — by Democrats and Republicans in America, and members of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democratic parties in Britain. There was nothing wrong with the politics of collectivism and the politics of private initiative, but their greatest days lie in the past and we are ready for something different and more challenging. My name for it is: the politics of hope.

A vision once guided us, one that we loosely call the Judaeo-Christian tradition. It was not a single ethical system, more a related family of them. It did not answer all questions, and even when it was at its height, there were vexed moral debates. But it taught us moral habits. It gave us a framework of virtue. It embodied ideals. It emphasised the value of institutions — the family, the school, the community — as vehicles through which one generation hands on its ideals to the next. In its broad outlines it was shared by poor and rich alike, by miners, labourers, politicians, teachers, the police, judges, fellows of Oxbridge colleges and children in the village school. You could catch traces of its influence from pubs to pulpits to cricket matches. It bound us together as a nation and gave an entire society its bearings.

That tradition has been comprehensively displaced. In its stead has come a variety of substitutes: ethics of work and success, cults of physical fitness, consumerism and salvation-by-shopping, therapies, New Age mysticisms, alternative lifestyles, sub and counter-cultures, resurgent ethnicities of multiple kinds, and Internet-surfing as a mode of global identity. Never before have we been faced with such kaleidoscopic variety, but it fails to cohere. It does not provide us with the resources to connect our present with an identifiable past and future. It does not give unity to a life. It does not lend structure and stability to our relationships. It does not connect our private desires with a larger purpose of which we are a part. It is less like music, more like noise.

> Like the Tower of Babel, libertarianism aimed too high

The alternative world we have come to inhabit has its roots deep in history. In my book I follow it back to Hobbes in the 17th century. Others would date its genesis earlier still. It did not come into being as a result of Thatcherism or Reaganomics in the 1980s, or the "permissive society" of the 1960s, or the welfare state of the 1940s. Each of these merely carried further tendencies that were present long before. That is why serious thinkers have understood that what is really at stake in the present debate is the Enlightenment itself as an adequate account of human nature and rationality. Many aspects of that revolution in thought were necessary and beneficial. We could not undo them, nor should we wish to. But in one aspect it was simply wrong, in its attempt to assimilate our understanding of humanity to science. The belief was that just as science was opening the way to limitless progress in our understanding and control of the physical world, so a scientific morality would create an order of rational, tolerant and benevolent human beings, free of the conflicts and prejudices of the past.



Dr Sacks: to write *The Politics of Hope*, "I have had . . . to disrobe and immerse myself in literatures I had never before studied"

That was a noble undertaking, but like the Tower of Babel it was aimed too high, and the result is that we find it increasingly difficult to communicate with one another. We are left, like the builders of the tower, isolated and confused.

Fortunately, we are not without hope. The Judaeo-Christian heritage never disappeared, and it exists today as a great reservoir of moral energy and aspiration. Nor are we called on to abandon the heritage of the Enlightenment, for it taught us two things that must never be forgotten: that religion is not science, neither is it politics. Religion is not the best way of understanding what is; its domain is in the realm of what ought to be. Nor is it an appropriate vehicle of power. In these respects the Enlightenment was closer to truth than the religious establishments of the day.

But in one respect it simply failed to understand the nature of human society. We are not atoms, held together by the force-field of the State. We are children and parents, neighbours and friends. We are self-conscious beings, knowing what it is to feel the pain of loneliness, yet not willing to abdicate our selfhood in total fusion with others. We seek individuality and relationship — individuality through relationship. We learn to pronounce the "We" the better to be able to say "I". Thus is born the intricate dynamic of society, beginning with the family and extending outward, through which we learn to trust others and to act so that others can trust us. This requires us to internalise a complex of rules, virtues, dispositions and habits mediating between the self and others, allowing us to sustain relationships without the use or threat of force. As John Macmurray reminds us, these habits are precarious and need constant renewal. "The institutions by which society maintains itself are not natural," he writes. "They are artefacts, and they are maintained by effort in order to sustain the personal life of men and women, and to prevent a relapse into the barbarism of a nearly organic life." As we have come to know all too well in the 20th century, civilisation has a thin skin, and is easily wounded.

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- *The Politics of Hope (Jonathan Cape, £15.99) will be published on March 6.*

On Monday, Jonathan Sacks argues that the remoralisation of society is the antidote to despair

THE TIMES DIARY

High times

ONE OF the most dangerous artistic partnerships of recent years is once again on the cards. Ralph Steadman, anarchic cartoonist and wine lover, is about to team up with Hunter S. Thompson, drug-taking "gonzo" journalist, with whom he rampaged across America in the 1970s in the name of reportage.

Steadman has been asked to appear as a character witness in May on behalf of Thompson, whom he once described as one of the most evil men he knows, in a drink-drive case.

Thompson, who lives a hermit-like existence in Aspen, Colorado, with a Magnum 45 for company, was breathalysed returning from a party to celebrate victory in a campaign to prevent the expansion of Aspen's airport. "The police were waiting for me under the bridge like trolls," he said contemptuously of his arrest.

Thompson and (inset) Steadman: courtroom buddies

Steadman met Thompson in 1970 when they joined forces to cover the Kentucky Derby. Later, they collaborated to report on the America's Cup, when Steadman took drugs for the first time. "I kept asking what the pills were that Hunter was gobbling all the time, so he gave me one," he explains. The experiment was not a success, ending with the reporter and his illustrator painting obscenities about the Pope on the hull of a yacht.

"I'm a different kind of person when I'm with Hunter," Steadman says. "The animal in me comes out." He adds that he will defend his friend to the hilt at the court case in May. "He's a fine, upstanding human being."

Health scare

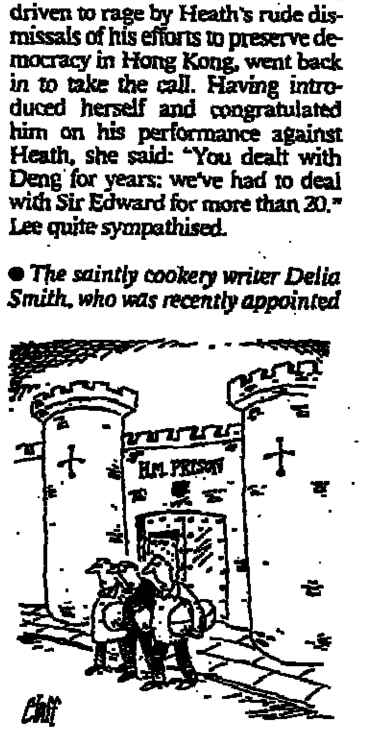
EDWINA CURRIE has been caught bunking off. After appearing mute and weary at an afternoon gathering of the EU Trade Committee, she failed to appear later in the day at a meeting of MPs and Stonewall, the gay rights activists. While Jack Straw, Chris Smith and Lord Russell listened to an especially apologetic note of absence, claiming Mrs Currie was still suffering from a particularly nasty bout of flu, she Currie was spotted tucking into hearty canteen food with a female pal in the nearby Strangers' Restaurant. Mrs Currie is now in Estonia and her office would not comment.

Elderly leader

AFTER his blazing-eyed confrontation with Deng Xiaoping's old mucker, Sir Edward Heath, 80, on *Newsnight* earlier this week, Martin Lee, leader of Hong Kong's Democrats, was leaving the BBC when he was called back by a scampering researcher. "Mr Lee, Mr Lee," she gasped. "Teresa Gorman is on the telephone and would like a word."

Lee, a decent, reasonable man driven to rage by Heath's rude dismissals of his efforts to preserve democracy in Hong Kong, went back in to take the call. Having introduced herself and congratulated him on his performance against Heath, she said: "You dealt with Deng for years: we've had to deal with Sir Edward for more than 20." Lee quite sympathised.

- *The saintly cookery writer Delia Smith, who was recently appointed a director of Norwich City Football Club, has her work cut out at the club ground where she has hopes of opening a brasserie. A national survey in* Total Football *magazine rated the meat pies on sale at Norwich the worst of any football ground in England.*



"Look at it this way; we've missed 18 years under the Tories"

Gay pride

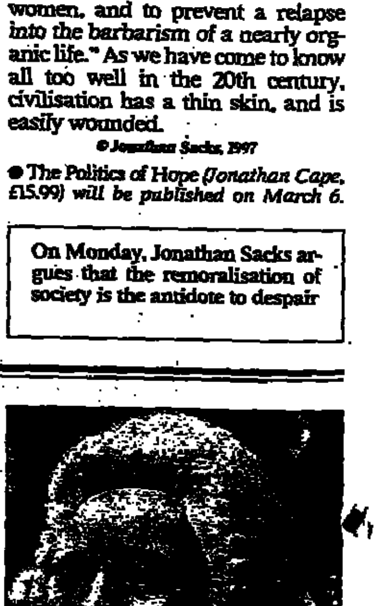
YET MORE discomfort for the Conservative Party with news that the lion starring in their latest round of advertising has been behaving over-fondly with a male lion friend.

For two days each week, the lion is locked in a cage with his chum and together they frolic, tease and gambol in a manner that reminds onlookers of Christopher Isherwood in prewar Berlin.

At Conservative Central Office, which is locked in battle with Downing Street over the effectiveness of the advertisements, the beast has a nickname: Dandy Lion.

Needled

TONY BLAIR branched into fashion at the *What the Papers Say Awards* in London yesterday, defending the sweater that his wife was photographed wearing recently when off-duty at the weekend.



Cherie Booth: woolly

Cherie Booth had been snapped leaving a supermarket in a thick woolly jumper far removed from her usual wear.

"My wife has appeared in the newspapers over the last few days," the Labour leader said. "That jumper that she wore; look, I bought that jumper. Greater love hath no woman than to give up her fashion taste for her husband. I still like it and that's as defiant as I'm going to get. And it did not cost £300."

P·H·S

GUIDE IN PERPLEXITY

A rabbi's brief history of our time

Rabbi means "my master" or "teacher of the law". Where other faiths have priests or pastors, Judaism has rabbis. Hence many of the most influential teachers in history have been Jewish, from Moses and Jesus to Marx and Freud. Great crises often produce great teachers. In the late 12th century, a period of bewildering political and intellectual change in Europe, Rabbi Maimonides wrote his *Guide for the Perplexed*, combining the best of Jewish and gentile thought. As our own catastrophic century ends, many people in the Western democracies find themselves in a different but no less profound perplexity. Many would welcome guidance in our political and moral crisis, though religious leaders are nowadays rarely as persuasive as such a guide needs to be. In Dr Jonathan Sacks we may have found one.

The Chief Rabbi's wide learning, didactic gifts and personal charisma are attested by his previous appearances on the secular stage, such as his 1990 Reith Lectures. *The Times* has championed his forthright views on the role of religion, and has also supported his courageous but controversial attendance this week at a memorial meeting for the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

Now Dr Sacks has written a remarkable book, addressed to Jews and non-Jews alike, drawing on the best of contemporary secular thought. The first of three extracts appears in *The Times* today. *The Politics of Hope* would be remarkable simply as a compendium of scholarship; it is, indeed, a brief history of our time. But it is more. The Chief Rabbi crisply analyses the malaise already identified by Frances Lawrence and others, and offers his own solution.

The problem as he sees it is the progressive demoralisation of liberal society since the Enlightenment, and especially over the past half-century. The rise of the welfare state and its dependency culture, of the permissive society and libertarian individualism, have in Dr Sacks's view extended throughout society an atomistic view of human nature which was until recently confined to an educated elite. This libertarian revolution involved the sacrifice of an older, less selfish and materialistic view of the good life, according to which man is a social animal, rooted in the *polis*. It also meant the carving up of the public sphere, and the privatisation of morality.

The solution follows naturally: demoralisation must be met by remoralisation. That, of course, is easier said than done; Dr Sacks is not so naive as to suppose that appeals for moral regeneration will readily reduce the crime statistics, or that sermons which have failed to fill the churches and synagogues will somehow galvanise a cynical secular society. But he believes passionately that a moral transformation which has happened before can happen again: just as it did thousands of years ago in the Holy Land, and just as it did in Victorian Britain. In each case the secret resource was the same: the Judaeo-Christian tradition encodes a strategy for moral recovery.

What Dr Sacks means by "the politics of hope" is a prophetic, not an apocalyptic or despairing, view of society. That means faith in the moral basis of humanity. After Dunblane, Dr Sacks says that he, like countless others, experienced a moment of national self-awareness. "Morality," he writes, "is civilisation's greatest attempt to humanise fate."

This rich and eloquent book is vulnerable to selective quotation. It will be plundered on the Left, for whom his diagnosis of contemporary ills is more useful than his austere "politics of responsibility". On the Right, his message may be oversimplified into a crude authoritarianism. His espousal of American communitarianism will not appeal to all, though he imposes his own distinctive rigour on an often woolly-minded movement. His erudition sometimes leads him to cite with enthusiasm thinkers whose ideologies he does not share: thus he quotes approvingly from John Macmurray, Tony Blair's mentor, though he has little in common with the Scottish philosopher's ethical socialism. But such eclecticism is a strength, not a weakness, in a book which deserves to become a key text, not only during the election campaign, but long after.

TOO LONG TO LANGUISH

The Bridgewater Four were scandalously treated

It has taken 18 years for the men convicted of murdering Carl Bridgewater to prove their innocence. One of the four, Patrick Molloy, died in jail, disputing his conviction to the last. He has been deprived of the joy that the other three felt yesterday as they were released by the Court of Appeal to breathe London air for the first time since James Callaghan was Prime Minister.

There can be few greater crimes that the State can commit than depriving innocent people of their liberty. These men have spent what should have been the best years of their lives in jail. Though no sum of money could ever wipe out the trauma that they have suffered, they should nonetheless be handsomely compensated.

But while Michael and Vincent Hickey and James Robinson readjust to the world of computers, video recorders, out-of town supermarkets and Tory governments, the Home Office should be examining how this wrongful conviction could have been allowed to stand for so long. It should also try to ensure that the policemen who secured the conviction are themselves brought to justice.

For the evidence which eventually led to the men's release showed tampering on a criminal scale. Mr Molloy always claimed that he had been tricked and intimidated into signing a false confession. He was shown a confession that one of the other co-accused, Vincent Hickey, had allegedly signed. The new evidence produced to the Court of Appeal showed that the Hickey "confession" had been forged by policemen from the No 4 Regional Crime Squad.

The evidence arose out of an "Esda" test on Mr Molloy's confession, which revealed the imprint of the forged signature written on the page above. Since Mr Hickey was several miles away in another police station, being questioned by different detectives, the confession could not have been genuine. Mr Molloy's claim that he had been shown this forgery was never believed in the many reviews of the case since 1978.

Tragically, the Hickey signature was discovered in 1990, but until two weeks ago nobody realised its significance. Great credit should go to Jim Nichol, solicitor to the men, who decided to go back over all the evidence in preparation for their latest appeal. Mr Molloy's confession was always crucial to the case against all three men since there was no forensic evidence linking them to the scene, no murder weapon and no witnesses.

The West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, which included the detective who falsified Mr Hickey's signature, was wound up in 1989 after evidence came to light of other fabricated confessions and planted evidence in 23 cases during the 1980s. There is much less chance of such behaviour happening today, with the safeguards introduced by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. And although police forces still feel under pressure to secure convictions, particularly in child murders, the police culture is gradually changing. But the Government owes it to these three men — and to the memory of the fourth — to inquire into the circumstances of this miscarriage of justice. It must never be allowed to happen again.

LOVE, FIDEL

Castro reveals a cuddly side in letters to his mistress

Six love letters, previously unpublished, have just surfaced in Spain. Written by Fidel Castro over four decades ago to Naty Revuelta, his mistress, they are not the greatest examples of the epistolary art. Self-conscious, didactic and much too long, they are uncomfortably like his rambling speeches to the captive and the faithful.

As our Madrid correspondent writes today, some lines in the letters reveal Señor Castro in his true colours. "I believe that love also has its dialectic: thesis, antithesis and synthesis — just like a Revolution, which would not exist without a Counter-revolution." Now that is the man we know so well, the inflexible ideologue with whom Cuba has had to put up for nearly 40 years.

But wait: that is not the whole picture. The letters occasionally reveal an awkward and touching tenderness. Señor Castro was capable of penning some quite cuddly stuff. Consider these lines, in another letter to Naty: "What does 'me too' mean at the end of your letters? Ah! I know . . . Do you really love me? Swear to me! Even more than I do you?" Elsewhere, impressively amorous, he promises to crush her in his arms "like a flower", and to hold her "sacred, in the intimate recesses of the heart".

Letters to lovers and spouses written by the famous often provide clues to their personalities which one would struggle to find elsewhere. The revelations are not always flattering. Albert Einstein's letters to his wife, for example, show him to have been a cold-blooded male chauvinist who loved her less than his equations.

Bertrand Russell, too, is ill-served by his letters. Writing to Ottoline Morrell, he shows that his eloquence could desert him when he moved from philosophy to passion: "Loving you is like loving a red-hot poker, which is a worse bedfellow than even Lytton's Umbrella; every caress brings on agony." And only this week, serious posthumous damage was done to the feminist reputation of Simone de Beauvoir when old letters to an American lover revealed that she referred to herself as "an obedient Arab wife" and a "little loving frog".

It is refreshing, however, when love letters of the famous betray the baser instincts. No one can read this line from Flaubert's letters to Louise Colet — with its stylish mixture of irony and lust — and not warm to the man who gave us *Madame Bovary*: "Yes, for me you are a diversion, but one of the best. The most complete kind. You relieve me emotionally, for the thought of you fills me with tenderness and my heart reposes on that thought just as when I lie on you." Flaubert's efforts were better than Señor Castro's, naturally, but the latter's letters have their own potent romance. The real pity, of course, is that the young Cuban writer of love letters grew into a long-winded old Communist tyrant. It must have been that damned dialectic.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Demand by life insurers for evidence of genetic tests

From the Chair of the Huntingdon's Disease Association

Sir, I very rarely find myself batting for the insurance industry but I do feel that your report of February 19, "Life insurers demand gene test results", may unnecessarily alarm those affected by inherited conditions.

When applying for life insurance, disclosure of a genetic test result has always been a requirement. Failure to disclose a genetic test result could result in a policy being declared void. People attending genetic clinics for pre-test counselling are advised to examine their insurance requirements before taking a test.

In the case of Huntingdon's disease it is usually possible to obtain insurance if you are "at risk" as indicated by your family history, albeit with loaded premiums (averaging 50 per cent). However, hitherto, if you had received a positive test result, indicating that at some future time you would develop Huntingdon's disease, your chances of obtaining life insurance would have been negligible.

The policy statement by the Association of British Insurers changes this situation in limited circumstances — ie, people applying for life insurance for a sum of up to £100,000 linked to a new mortgage will still be required to reveal the result of any genetic test; but, if the test is positive and would therefore normally have been to the detriment of the applicant, the result will be disregarded. Family history will continue to be taken into account. In effect this is an improvement for people in this situation.

Meanwhile, as an association, we shall continue to advise our members to seek independent advice with regard to insurance requirements before embarking on a genetic test. It is important for people to apply to companies that look more favourably on those at risk of an inherited condition and to avoid being refused insurance.

Yours sincerely,
SUE WATKIN, Chair,
Huntingdon's Disease Association,
108 Battersea High Street, SW11.
February 19.

From Professor David de Bono

Sir, When I was first introduced to medical aspects of insurance some 20 years ago, I inquired why smokers were charged much the same premiums as non-smokers. I understood that the insurance companies were well aware that smokers constituted a higher risk group, but the proportion of smokers among those seeking insurance was so high that companies discriminating against them would lose business. If and when the proportion of smokers diminished, discriminating rates would be introduced.

This has indeed come about. I suspect that the reverse situation will eventually apply to those undergoing genetic testing: as and when it becomes commonplace it will cease to identify a high risk population, and market forces will drive insurers to accept reasonable risks at appropriate premiums. In the meantime, what worries doctors and patients is that many insurance companies seem to regard genetic testing as providing a categorical (yes/no) answer rather than simply contributing, along with clinical and actuarial data, to an accurate quantification of risk.

The price to be paid for compulsory disclosure of genetic information may need to be the adoption of a voluntary or statutory code of practice on its use. This is important if further advances in medical research and patient care are not to be seriously handicapped.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID de BONO,
University of Leicester,
Department of Cardiology,
Glenfield General Hospital,
Leicester LE3 9QP.

From Mr K. D. Boyd

Sir, The benefits of ever-advancing knowledge in genetic make-up outweigh the harm. The more we know, the better the prospect for mankind.

I suspect that when the shouting has died down the practice of excluding or loading the insurance of impaired lives will be as difficult with the new knowledge as it was before. There are a number of sufferers from life-threatening conditions who can obtain cover today, provided they can prove they have come to terms with their defects and have the discipline to live with them.

Would anyone insure with a company known to ignore relevant information? Such behaviour involves paying claims that foresight could have excluded, thus reducing the benefits to other shareholders or policyholders. An underclass of the uninsurable already exists. Would not a dramatic increase in this underclass tempt an ingenious insurer to enter this market? That is what has always happened in the past.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BOYD,
Boyd & Associates
(Independent financial advisers),
The Oast House,
Holt Pound, Farnham, Surrey.
February 19.

From Mr Panos C. Mavron

Sir, The insistence of insurers on knowing the results of voluntary DNA tests raises serious issues that must be addressed by the next government. Being health-conscious I volunteered for an ECT test several years ago, even though I was, and remain, perfectly healthy. The test showed that I had a slightly abnormal heart rhythm. As a result insurance companies refused to insure me.

My GP said there was nothing to worry about as not everybody has the same heart rhythm, and later examination by two consultant cardiologists, which included a full workout on a treadmill, confirmed that I am healthier than most and that, so long as I continue with my healthy lifestyle and remain fit, I should live a normal lifespan. I have thus been punished for showing an interest in my health.

Yours faithfully,
PANOS C. MAVRON,
71 Linden Way, Southgate, N14.
February 19.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Anti-Semitism in Shakespeare's eyes

From Mr Peter Bassano

Sir, Jeremy Kingston (review of *The Merchant of Venice*, February 14) describes the play as "Jew-hating, Jew-baiting, Jew-spitting". There is nothing new in this perception of Shakespeare's anti-Semitic portrait of Shylock. *The Merchant* has been banned from schools and theatres in several countries because of this perception.

Jews were officially proscribed in Elizabethan England, but that didn't mean Shakespeare never met one: despite the exclusion law there were several at court, including the Lupo and Bassano families of royal musicians, and Rodrigo Lopez, Portuguese physician to the Queen, who are identified as having Jewish backgrounds.

In 1594 Dr Lopez was charged with trying to poison the Queen. He was tortured, confessed, found guilty, and executed. This episode sparked off xenophobic fervour in which Marlowe's truly anti-Semitic play, *The Jew of Malta*, was revived to public acclaim. Some may think that the Lopez affair caused Shakespeare to start work on *The Merchant*.

In 1973 Dr A. L. Rowse, working from the diaries of the Elizabethan astrologer Simon Forman, identified Emilia Bassano, daughter of Baptist Bassano, one of the Queen's Venetian Jewish musicians — from whose uncle, Antonio, I claim descent — as the Dark Lady of the sonnets (details, January 29, 1973). In recent years a number of scholars have presented literary and historical arguments to support Dr Rowse's identification.

Given the inconsistency of Elizabethan spelling, Bassanio would have been recognised by a contemporary audience as Jewish. How can Shakespeare have created in Shylock an anti-Jewish stereotype, since Bassanio, his antagonist, was Jewish too?

Yours etc,
PETER BASSANO
(Head of Brass Faculty,
Royal College of Music),
Stonewell Farm,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.
February 17.

EU brinkmanship

From Mr Walter Cairns

Sir, Christopher Jackson, MEP, is wrong to assert (letter, February 10) that the recent vote in the House of Lords on our relationship with the EU amounted in effect to a decision to leave the European Union. The Upper Chamber merely voted to reassert the precedence of UK law over EU law by making certain changes to the 1972 European Communities Act. That does not amount to EU withdrawal.

In 1965, the French Government refused to take up its seat at the Council of Ministers. In effect this amounted to issuing the Community authorities with an ultimatum: either you accept our terms or you expel us. This tactic proved successful, as it resulted in the 1966 Luxembourg Agreement, which enshrined the national veto.

The EU would be faced with the same dilemma towards Britain if the House of Lords' resolution was translated into legislation. My guess is that, since expulsion of a member state is a political impossibility, the EU would have to submit to the British Parliament's wishes. This would at least ensure that the wishes of an elected body took precedence over those of unelected bureaucrats.

Yours sincerely,
WALTER CAIRNS,
Broomhurst Hall,
836 Wilmslow Road, Manchester.
February 10.

From Mr Antony Snow

Sir, It does not seem to have occurred to the EU Economic and Social Committee that the reason for "the generally negative stance towards Europe adopted by members of the two major political parties in the run-up to the election" is that they will get more votes that way.

The British electorate has over the years shown an unerring sense of what is good for it. Only those writing from the sanctuary of Brussels would believe that they know better.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY SNOW,
16 Rumbold Road, SW6.

Labour fisheries policy

From the Shadow Minister of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Sir, Contrary to your report, "Fishermen accuse Labour of breaking quota-hopping pledge" (February 11), there has been no change in Labour's position on quota-hopping. Our determination to see this matter resolved remains unaltered. Labour has not ruled out refusing to agree conclusions of the EU's intergovernmental conference if such conclusions do not address the problem of quota-hopping.

Quota-hopping will be a priority negotiating objective of a Labour government at the IGC.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN STRANG,
House of Commons.
February 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Decline of the Unions?

From the President of the Cambridge Union

Sir, The fact that Oxford has problems attracting students to serious debates ("The declining state of the Union", Michael Gove, February 14) will surprise no one at Cambridge.

The Prime Minister must take his share of the blame after his attack during yesterday's Question Time, accusing Mr Blair of "pathetic political point-scoring, barely worthy of a student debating society". As almost every Cabinet heavyweight is Union-sprung, and few if any of Labour's are, he should perhaps choose his insults more carefully.

We recently invited the Prime Minister to attend a debate here, to remind him that decorum is born at Oxbridge and lost at Westminster, but he declined.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LEEK, President,
The Cambridge Union Society,
9a Bridge Street, Cambridge.
February 14.

From Mr Matthew J. Howard

Sir, Michael Gove argues today that the Oxford Union is now displaying a taste for cheap publicity stunts.

I suggest that both Unions have fallen victim to the same phenomenon — ie, the concentration by the media on the soap and pop stars and the sportsmen and women who are occasionally attracted to our respective institutions, at the expense of the heavyweight debating and speaker addresses which take place within both Unions day after day.

In the same week that O. J. Simpson addressed the Oxford Union, President Lech Walesa addressed the Cambridge Union. While the former received innumerable column inches in both the popular and the quality press, Walesa's visit appeared only to appeal to the Polish press and local newspapers.

The Princess Royal, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Terry Waite, Albert Reynolds and President Reagan have all visited the Cambridge Union in recent years. Yet our media profile received its greatest boosts from visits by Chris Eubank in 1994 and by Tara Palmer-Tomkinson earlier this year.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. HOWARD (Librarian,
Cambridge Union, Easter 1996),
The Old Hall,
Sturton by Stow, Lincoln.
February 14.

News output on BBC

From the Chief Executive of BBC News

Sir, The reporting of our plans to review our news output led to a speculative piece about the *Today* programme in your pages ("Why we must save the Gang on Four", Media and Marketing, February 19).

Perhaps I can clarify our intentions. We haven't reviewed our output comprehensively for ten years and I believe it's time for us to look in detail at the ways in which audiences are viewing and listening to BBC News. Our programme-makers will also be a part of this process. As it happens we are in a strong position. The *Today* programme, for example, has more listeners than any other radio news programme.

Your article claims that "conclusions have been reached and leaked before the process has begun". These are not the conclusions of the review team, which has not yet met.

The review team may recommend changes; it may not. What is not in doubt is our responsibility to serve all audiences with programmes which maintain the journalistic values of impartiality, accuracy and integrity.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HALL,
Chief Executive, BBC News,
Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12.
February 20.

Surname usage

From Professor Gerald Dix

Sir, Old name habits undoubtedly die hard. Within the past decade or so it has been my experience to find a highly formalised system operating within a university. The registrar, being of equivalent status to a professor, always addressed lecturers and readers as Mr or Dr but, as they were his equal, professors were addressed by surname alone. A (very) few of the more senior professors, such as deans or pro-vice-chancellors, with whom he worked closely, were addressed by their first names in some of the less formal meetings.

And I have a typed letter from Dr Arnold Toynbee, written in 1969, beginning "Dear Mr Dix" and ending "Yours very sincerely", with a manuscript addition below his signature saying: "Delete the 'Mr'. It looks terribly formal. A.J.T.". We were friends and colleagues, but with an age difference of almost forty years, so I continued to address him as Dr Toynbee.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD DIX,
13 Friars Quay, Norwich.

Battered brides

From Dr Trevor G. Stammers

Sir, It is not only in the Church of Scotland that clergy beat their wives and scripture is used to justify the violence (report, February 10). In researching my recent book, *Love Lies Bleeding*, I found evidence of domestic brutality in many churches right across the denominations. One woman I interviewed was regularly beaten for 15 years by her husband, a deacon in an independent evangelical church.

Church leaders counselling women to stay in such situations would do well to remember that it is the violence that separates "those whom God has joined together", not the wife who flees to escape it.

Those who too glibly quote "I hate divorce" (the first words of Malachi ii, 16) rarely know that the verse (in the New International Version) continues "and I hate a man's covering himself (or his wife) with violence".

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR STAMMERS
25 Beaford Grove,
Merton Park, SW20.
February 10.

Christians in Pakistan

From the Imam of the London Mosque

Sir, The recent persecution of Christians by the so-called followers of Islam in Pakistan (report, "Pakistan Muslims force Christians to abandon homes", February 13) is deplorable and yet another example of the repeated violation of human rights in Pakistan. All that it achieves is a bad name for Islam.

Followers of Islam, or for that matter any religion, should not violate the peaceful teachings of their faith and tarnish its image in the eyes of others. No religion permits this. The real culprits are those who ignore and violate the teachings of their religion and desecrate it.

Yours sincerely,
A. M. RASHED,
Imam, The London Mosque,
16 Gressenhall Road, SW18.
February 15.

Church clappies

From the Reverend Richard Warden

Sir, Despite the breathtaking beauty of Cranmer, it seems fanciful to suggest that a return to the Book of Common Prayer will in itself encourage the church of tomorrow, our young people, to attend the church of today (letters, February 13). The problem of falling numbers at worship must be addressed at a deeper level.

Given the legislative onslaught on the traditional Sunday in recent years and the subsequent change in behaviour patterns in our society, is it any surprise that people attend church less often?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD WARDEN (Chaplain),
Wycombe Abbey School,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
February 13.

End of the line?

From Mr Roger Hand

Sir, On the basis that every scheduled train actually must make a pair of journeys — out and back — does the odd number of journeys (39) that South West Trains proposes to cancel each day (report, February 18) mean that, sooner or later, all its trains will end up in Poole or some other extremity of its network?

Yours etc,
ROGER HAND,
Cottage 4, Kintbury Mill,
Kintbury, Berkshire.
February 18.

Stops and starts

From Mr Tom Courtenay

Sir, When trains near their destination nowadays, a strangled voice often announces: "We are now approaching so and so, where this train will terminate." No it won't. Surely in the majority of cases it will go on to have many more happy journeys.

Yours sincerely,
TOM COURTENAY,
c/o Wyndham's Theatre,
Charing Cross Road, WC2.
February 20.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 21: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Charterhouse School, Godalming, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton), the Chairman of the Governing Body (Sir Anthony Laughton), the Headmaster (the Reverend John Witheridge), the Mayor of Waverley Borough Council (Councillor Mrs Gillian Beel) and the Mayor of Godalming Town Council (Councillor Christopher Slyfield).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a Service in the Memorial Chapel and afterwards attended a Concert in the Ralph Vaughan Williams Music Centre.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh subsequently viewed an exhibition of school activities in the Ben Travers Theatre.

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, later opened the Queen's Sports Centre and toured the building.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, afterwards honoured the Chairman of the Governing Body with her presence at Luncheon in Brooke Hall.

Her Majesty, Patron, and His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and were received by the Chairman of the Trust Board (Mr Colston Herbert), Mr Jeffrey Faulkner (Chief Executive) and the Mayor of Guildford (Mr John Woodhatch).

The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opened St Luke's Wing and afterwards toured the departments in the Wing.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 22: The Prince of Wales this morning departed from Royal Air Force Brize Norton to visit Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Bangladesh.

The following were present and took leave of His Royal Highness: the Ambassador from the State of Qatar (His Excellency Mr Ali M. Jaidah), the Ambassador from the People's Republic of Bangladesh (His Excellency Mr A.H. Mahmood Ali), the First Secretary, Embassy of the State of Kuwait (Mr Salem Ghassab M.G. Al-Zamanan), and the Station Commander (Group Captain David Vass).

The Prince of Wales was received on arrival in Kuwait this afternoon by The Crown Prince.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a State Banquet given by The Crown Prince at the Shaab Palace.

Mr Stephen Lamport, Surgeon Commander Robin Clark RN, Lieutenant-Commander John Lavery RN and Miss Sandy Henney are in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
February 21: The Duke of Kent, President, this evening attended a concert at Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 21: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Hong Kong. The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

School announcements

Francis Holland School (Graham Terrace)
There will be an Old Girls' Party for the School Birthday on Thursday, February 27, from 6.00pm at the school, preceded by an AGM of the newly formed Old Girls' Society at 5.00pm. Any Old Girl wishing to attend will be most welcome and should get in touch with the school to make sure the register is accurate if they have not already received notification. RSVP Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace, London SW1W 8JF. Tel: 0171-730 2971.

Royal Russell School, Croydon
An Old Russellian Reunion for all who were at 'Ballards' or 'Russell Hill' will be held on Saturday, May 10, 1997. Details: 0181-657 4433.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr H.A. Ashmall, former Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 58; the Hon James Bethell, racehorse trainer, 45; Mr Michael Chang, tennis player, 25; Sir Michael Cobham, former chairman, Cobham, 70; Mr J.N. Ellis, trade unionist, 58; Mr Joseph Ettedgui, fashion designer, 61; Professor Sir Brian Follett, FRS, Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 58; Mr Bruce Forsyth, entertainer, 69; Miss Deborah Grant, actress, 50; Miss Sheila Hancock, actress, 64; Miss Jocelyn Herbert, stage designer, 80; Mr Howard Hodgson, chief executive, Ronson, 47; Mr Mike Hollingsworth, television executive, 51; Sir David Jack, FRS, pharmacologist, 73; Mr Peter Jacobs, chief executive, Bupa, 54; Mr Edward Kennedy, American politician, 65; Sir John Kerr, diplomat, 55; the Earl of Kintore, 58; Miss Patricia Lancaster, former Headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 68; Mr Niki Lauda, racing driver, 48; Miss Frances Line, former Controller, BBC Radio 2, 57; Mr Ian McColl, former Editor, Daily Express, 82; Sir John Mills, actor, producer and director, 89; Mr Tom Okker, tennis player, 53; Mr Richard Page, MP, 56; Sir Christopher Peterson, former High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, 79; Mr Nigel Planer, actor, 44; Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous, 58; Sir William Slack, former Serjeant Surgeon to the Queen, 72; Mr Ian Stark, showjumper, 43; Lord Strathclyde, 37; Dame Joan Varley, former Conservative Party agent, 77; Mr S.C. Whitbread, Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, 60.

Julie Walters, the actress, is 47 today; Anton Mosimann, the chef, will be 50 tomorrow

TOMORROW: Mr Bill Alexander, theatre director, 49; the Duke of Beaufort, 69; Miss Pam Blundell, fashion designer, 30; Mr Jermyn P. Brooks, chairman, Price Waterhouse Europe, 58; Mr James Cousins, MP, 53; Lady Digby, 63; Lord Ezra, 78; Miss M.L. Farrer, former chairman, Central Midwives Board, 83; Mr Frank Gerstenberg, Principal, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 56; Mrs Maureen Hicks, former MP, 49; Mr Nicholas Kenyon, Controller, BBC Radio 3, 46; Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College, 55; the Earl of Lincoln, 84; Lord St Levan, 78; Mr Colin Sanders, founder, Solid State Logic, 55; Mr Martindale Sidwell, organist and conductor, 81; Miss Helena Sukova, tennis player, 32; Lord Tugendhat, 60; Mr David Ward, former President, Law Society, 60; Dom Aelred Watkin, former Headmaster, Downside School, 79.

Receptions

Admiral Kelly Millenium Appeal
Mr Mark Turner, Headmaster of Kelly College, and Mr Christopher Kirwin, Chairman of the Appeal Committee, were the hosts at a reception given yesterday at the Reform Club by the Governors of Kelly College to mark the launch of the Admiral Kelly Millennium Appeal.

International Interfaith Centre
Sir Sigmund Sternberg was the host at a reception at the Reform Club yesterday to announce the 1997 Niwano Peace Prize of 20,000,000 Yen (approx £100,000) to the Corrymeela Community by the Niwano Peace Foundation in Japan.

The Rev Marcus Braybrooke presided. Contributors included Lord Hylton, Mr Masatoshi Muto, Dr John May, Dr Philip Potter and the Peace Prize Recipient.

Dinners

Royal College of Radiologists
Dr M.J. Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mrs Brindle were the hosts at a dinner held last night at 38 Portland Place.

Freemen of the City of London
Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London, accompanied by Lady Buchanan, presided at a dinner of the guild held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Commander J.M.C. Maughan, commander of the college, also spoke.

4-5 Gray's Inn Square
The Chambers of Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC, and the Hon Michael Beloff, QC, 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, gave a dinner in honour of Mr Justice Moses on his elevation to the High Court Bench. Mr Beloff proposed the toast and Mr Justice Moses replied.

Denham Golf Club
Captains and Lady Captains past and present of Denham Golf Club gave a dinner last night at the clubhouse to mark the retirement of Mr John Sheridan after 50 years as the club's professional.

Service dinner

Pembroke Yeomanry
Earl Cawdor was the principal guest of the Pembroke Yeomanry Dinner Club held last night at the RAC Ranges, Castlemartin, to mark the bicentenary of the French surrender at Fishguard (February 24, 1797).

Mountbatten Festival of Music

Major-General David Pennefather, Commandant General Royal Marines, was the host at the Mountbatten Festival of Music given by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Latest wills

Richard Thomas George Chester-Master, of Preston, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, left £6,989,917 net.

Robert Charles Petre, of Kirdford, Billingshurst, West Sussex, left £3,107,507 net.

William Alfred Dennis, of Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, left £1,503,455 net.

Fan Makers

The following have been elected officers of the Fan Makers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr N.G. Crispin; Free Warden, Mr J.P. Allen; Foreign Warden, Mr M.H. Davis.

Appointment

Mr I.D.S. Beer to be Chairman of the Council of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust from March 20.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.D.G. Sells and Miss S.P. Williamson
The engagement is announced between Adrian, elder son of Mr David Sells, of Holland Park, and Mrs Pauline Sells, of Overthorpe, Oxfordshire, and Susie, twin daughter of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Keith and Lady Williamson, of Burnham Market, Norfolk.

Mr R.H. Byrne and Miss C.H.V. Dunn
The engagement is announced between Redmond, son of Mr and Mrs T. Byrne, of Dublin, Ireland, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.J. Dunn, of Chislehurst, Kent.

Mr J. Christmas and Miss E. Trim
Mr and Mrs Michael Trim, of Rainham, Kent, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter, Eleanor, to Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Christmas, of Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire.

Mr D.J. Cooper and Miss K.P. Clarke
The engagement is announced between Durgan, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Cooper, of East Coker, Somerset, and Katherine, elder daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs J.P. Clarke, formerly of Haselbury Plucknett, Somerset.

Mr P.A. Coulson and Miss C.A. Bean
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of the late Mr Roy Coulson and of Mrs Anne Coulson, of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr Roy Bean, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Mrs Anne Bean, of Oakham, Rutland.

Mr C.J. Holt and Mrs S.A. Ratcliffe
The marriage will take place quietly today, at Kidderminster Register Office, of Christopher John Holt, son of Mr and Mrs Norman Holt, of Sandilands, Croydon, to Sally Ann Ratcliffe, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Ashby, of High Woods, Colchester. The honeymoon will be spent in The Dominican Republic.

Mr M.K. Howard and Miss E.F. Cornes
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Howard, of Astwood Bank, Worcestershire, and Emily, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Cornes, of Croydon.

Mr C.B. Preston and Miss T.W. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Christian, youngest son of Mrs Elizabeth Preston, of London, W1, and the late Mr Desmond Preston, and Tara, eldest daughter of Mr James Wilson, of Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, and Mrs Nicholas Byam Shaw, of London, W11.

Mr P. Hale and Miss S.J. Secrett
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs Warwick Hale, of Nyabira, Zimbabwe, and Sacha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Secrett, of Enton, Surrey.

Mr C.E. Jones and Miss H.P. Bevan
The engagement is announced between Cledwyn, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Jones, of Mathrafal, Meifod, Powys, and Hannah, daughter of Mr Peter Bevan and the late Mrs Susan Bevan, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr R. Kingston and Miss J.J. Davies
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Kingston, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Davies, of Singapore.

Mr J.P. Nolan and Miss A.G. Heasman
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Paddy Nolan, of Ditchling, Sussex, and Anja, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Heasman, of Brighton, Sussex.

Mr R.J. Owen-Thomas and Miss D.J. Priestley
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mrs Beryl Owen-Thomas and the late Dr J.B. Owen-Thomas, of Gayton, Wirral, and Deborah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Priestley, of Heswall, Wirral.

Mr A.O. Richards and Miss J.L. Cousins
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Professor and Mrs Bryan Richards, of Helensburgh, Scotland, and Juliette, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Cousins, of Sutton Valence, Kent.

Mr R.E.C. Seymour-Newton and Miss J.M. Wald
The engagement is announced between Rupert, only son of Mr and Mrs C.T. Seymour-Newton, of Ennismore Gardens, London SW7, and Jaime, daughter of Mr E.G. Wald and the late Mrs Wald, and stepdaughter of Mrs P. Wald, of Hidden Pheasant Path, Wading River, New York.

Mr B.E. Weston and Miss A.C. Bosley
The engagement is announced between Barnaby, elder son of Mr David Weston and Mrs Michael Batty, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Bosley, of Hurley, Berkshire.

Mr N. Wheatley and Miss V.C.L. Anthony
The engagement is announced between Nathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Keith Wheatley, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Vanessa, younger daughter of Commodore and Mrs Derek Anthony, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday in Lent

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC, Mass for four voices (Byrd), The Provost; 6.30 ES, Trebles Service (Weelkes), Sicut cervus (Palestrina).

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Benedicite (Naylor), Lord for thy tender mercies sake (Hilton), Treasurer W Twaddell; 3.15 Ch E, Fauxbourdons (Morley), Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 11 S Euch, The Lamb (Taverner), Mathias in C, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams); 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, O thou the central orb (Wood).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), The Lamentations (Bairstow), So God loved the world (Jeffcoat), Rev M Reardon; 4 Choral E, Save us O Lord (Bairstow), Rev E Utley.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 Holy Euch, Plainsong, Canon G Lee; 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, Hear my prayer O Lord (Byrd), Deliver us O Lord our God (Batten).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, O nata lux (Tallis), Jackson in G, Oculi omnium (Wood), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, Brewer in D, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), Canon J Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley) Miserere mei (Byrd), The Precentor; 3.15 E, The Angels (Harvey); 6.30 Compline, Rev Dr M Chandler.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in B flat, Fantasia in F minor/major K 594 (Mozart), Canon R Chapman; 3 EP.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, The Acting Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Call to remembrance (Farrant), Short Service (Batten), Canon D Knight; 4 Baptism; 6 Choral E, Second Service (Tomkins), Out of the deep (Morley), Canon B Thompson.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), If ye love me (Tallis), The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert), Canon T Dennis; 11.30 Choral M, Sumsion in B flat, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), Mr J Turnbull; 3.30 Choral E, Miserere mei (Allegri); 6.30 ES, Canon J Newcome.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Benedicite (Naylor in G), Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood), The Priest Vicar; 11 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Jesus Christ, the apple tree (Poston), The Treasurer; 3.30 E & Installation of Precentor, Purcell in G minor, Salvator mundi (Blow).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Miserere (Chant), Canon O'Donovan; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), Litany to the Holy Spirit (Hurford), The Archdeacon of Oxford; 6 E & College Prayers, Watson in Eb, O my God I cry in the daytime (Reynolds).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé), Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev B Hinksman; 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish Lutherans; 5 E, We wait for thy loving (McKie), Aston in F, Wash me throughly (Wesley).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Brown; 10 M, Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Jubilate Deo (Stanford in B flat), O God of Bethel (Tye), Canon D Hodgson; 11.15 HC, Litany in Procession (Tallis), Darke in E, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Canon R Coppin; 3.30 E, The Fourth Service (Batten), Christe qui lux es (White).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Canon D Green; 3.45 E, I love the Lord (Harvey), Toccata (Gowers).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, God be in my head (Rutter), Darke in E, Panis angelicus (Franck), Canon K Parry; 11.15 M, Responses (Byrd), A: Call to remembrance (Farrant), Ven R Gilpin; 3 E, A: O Lord, look down from heaven (Battishill); 6.30 E, Blessed Jesu (Dvorak), Canon A Mawson.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Canon N Heavisides; 3 E, Gray in F Minor, Salvator mundi (Blow).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch (Farewell serv for Canon Dr Fenwick), Litany (Tallis), Messe solennelle (Vierne), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), The Sub-Dean; 6.30 E, Howells in G, Strengthen ye the weak hands (Harris), Rev Prof D Martin.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Stanford in C, Lord for thy tender mercies sake (Hilton), Miserere mei (Byrd), The Precentor; 11.30 M, Sumsion in B flat, Britten in C, Drop drop slow tears (Gibbons); 3.30 E, Dyson in F, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mozart in C, Thy word is a lantern (Purcell), Bishop of Basingstoke; 4 Choral E, Dyson in D, Evening hymn (Balfour Gardiner), Canon W Quinney.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Lord for Thy tender mercies sake (Hilton), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Responses (Ebdon), The Chichester Service (Archer).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Haydn), The Precentor; 11.15 M, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Call to remembrance (Farrant); 3.45 E, Collegium regale (Wood), O Lord, look down from heaven (Battishill), Mr R Sutton.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; 3 Choral E; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 9, 12.15 Euch; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, Remember not, Lord, our offences (Purcell), Canon in residence; 3.30 E, Jesus College service (Mathias), How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer); 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Britten), Panis angelicus (Franck), Archdeacon of Northumberland; 6 Choral E, Sumsion in G, Steal away (arr. Seil).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 M, Benedictus (Burtch), Thou wilt keep him (Sumsion); 6.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Justorum animae (Byrd).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rheinberger in E flat, O sacrum convivium (Vann), Archdeacon of Norwich; 3.30 E, Te lucis ante terminum (Strategier), Rev A Little; 6.30 Compline.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion); 10.30 Eucharist Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), The Dean; 3.30 E, Purcell in E minor, O Lord, look down from heaven (Battishill).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Parish Euch, Ireland in C, Motet, Salvator mundi (Tallis), Canon Michael Glanville-Smith; 11.30 M, Purcell in B flat, Hide not thou thy face (Farrant); 12.30 Euch; 3.00 Holy Baptism; 5.30 E, By the waters of Babylon (Sumsion), Master Tallis's Testament, the Rev David Murfet.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Jackson in G, O almighty God (Barcroft); 10.30 S Euch, Tantum ergo (Fauré), Prelude and Fugue in C minor (Bach), Professor the Rev G R Dunstan; 3.15 E, Ah, thou poor world (Brahms), Fantasia & Fugue in C minor (Bach).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), The Dean; 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood), The Chancellor; 3.00 E, Turn our captivity, O Lord (Byrd).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Captain Alan Turner; 6.30 E, Canon C Smith.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Lit; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, The Provost; 11 Sung Euch, Ireland in C, Cast me not away (S S Wesley), The Precentor; 3.15 E, The Wilderness (S S Wesley), Pièce Héroïque (Franck).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, O Almighty God (Richard Jacobs), Missa Brevis (Berkeley), The Dean; 6 E, A flat (Harwood), There is an old belief (Parry), The Chancellor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Parish C, Very Rev J Southgate; 11 Euch, Benedictus in G (Sumsion), Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 2 Victim Support Serv, Very Rev J Southgate; 4 E, Litany to the Holy Spirit (Hurford), Canon I Knox.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Sung Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Miserere mei (Byrd), The Sub-Dean; 11.30 M, Sumsion in B flat, Call to remembrance (Farrant); 3 E, Dyson in F, Justorum animae (Stanford), Canon E Morris.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC, 10 M, Out of the deep (Tomkins), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé), Seigneur, je vous en prie, (Poulenc), The Dean; 3 E, Lamentations of Jeremiah (Tallis), Rev R Godsall; 5.45 Organ recital, Richard Shirley; 6.30 E, Canon A Harvey.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Benedictus (Fauxbourdons), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Canon A K Walker; 11.30 Euch, Mass for five voices (Berkeley), Prelude and Fugue on theme of Vittoria (Britten); 3.30 Timor et tremor (Poulenc), The Dean.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Family Euch, Rev Dr M Dorsett; 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices and miserere mei (Byrd), Canon D Thomas; 4 E, Crucifixus (Lotti); 6.30 Congregational Serv, Canon I MacKenzie.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, The Dean; 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Benedictus in G (Sumsion); 4 E, Cantate Domino and Deus misereatur (Moore), For lo, I raise up (Stanford), Rev T Chapman.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, Wash me throughly (S S Wesley), Rev R H Griffiths; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Family S, the Minor Canon; 11.15 Ch Euch, Drop, drop slow tears (Gibbons), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), The Dean; 6 Choral E, Drop, drop slow tears, O thou sweetest source (Wood), Canon in Residence.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Tantum ergo (De Severac), Schmücke dich (Crüger), Canon C Bevington; 11.30 Choral C, Harris in F, The Holy Eucharist (Harris); 3.30 Choral E, A grateful heart (Plumstead), Call to remembrance (Farrant).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Missa nova (Gyeantey), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Rev G Bradley; 5 Stations of the Cross.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS HC, Missa brevis (Gabrieli); 11.30 MS, Crucifixus (Lotti), Rev A G McGillivray; 6 Lenten address and music, Mr K Boyd and Mr M Harris; 8 ES HC.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8, 10.30 Euch, Missa de Angelis, Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Bishop of Jerusalem; 3.30 EP; 7.45 BT Ensemble concert with St Mary's Music School and Cathedral choir.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), Super flumina (Palestrina), Agnus Dei (Wills), Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa aedis Christi (Howells), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Ven George Cassidy; 3.15 E, Jackson in G, Lord, let me know mine end (Greene), Rev P Abram; 5 organ recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Walton); 6 E&B, Dr H W Bramma.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 HC; 11 M, Rev C Wright; 6.30 E, Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: Missa salve Regina (Stehle), Seventh penitential psalm (Lassus).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children's serv; 11 M, Super flumina (Palestrina); 6 E, Rev R Rose.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 11.00, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 Mass.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Mr K Costa; 5, 7.30 Informal s, Rev S Downham.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa quarti toni (Victoria), Miserere mei (White); 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Hei mihi Domine (Donato).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev E Fletcher; 6.30, Rev Beryl Lucas.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 7 Jazz vespers, A Fischer, CRM.

ST AUGUSTINE'S, Queen's Gate, SW7: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Kyrie etc (Scarlatti), O vos omnes (Victoria).

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 C Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), the Rector; 6.30 E, Wesley in F, A: the Wilderness (Wesley), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M and [illegible] Domine (Byrd), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Brewer in D, Sermon in music, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 M, Litany (Tallis), Turn Thee unto me, O Lord (Boyce), Rev R Bayliss.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev Suzanne Dunleavy; 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Sung Mass, Missa in simplicitate (Langlais), Stabat Mater (Pergolesi).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass for eight voices (Hassler), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Lotti), If God be for us (Handel); Rev Bill Wilson; 6 Ch Euch, Crown of roses (Tchaikovsky).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Cathie; 5.45 E.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family S, March of the priests (Mendelssohn), Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev M Okello.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Arise O Lord (Byrd), Rev J Hadley; 6.30 E, When Jesus was yet a child (Tchaikovsky), Rec C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Ley in E minor, O vos omnes (Carlos Correa), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 10 M, Rev D Hutt; 11 S Euch, Rev Dr A Harvey; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Very Rev Dr W Carr; 3 E; 5.45 organ recital; 6.30 ES, Rev Dr A Harvey.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors serv, Rev Clare Herbert; 2.45 Chinese serv, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Mrs F Hiller.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, the Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev m Fuller; 6.30 E, Miss L Buxton.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Communion service (Farrant), Canon Lord Pilkington; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Out of the deep (Lupo), Lord, how long wilt Thou be angry? (Purcell); 6 Living with Faith.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), The Rector.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Ch Euch, Christe Jesu (Taverner), Ven G Reid.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Euch, missa in honorem Sancti Dominici (Rubbra), Like as the hart (Howells), Rev C Courtauld.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 9 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Super flumina Babylonis (Palestrina), The Parish Priest.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Leighton), A: Credo quod Redemptor (Parsons), Rev P R C Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Greater love (Ireland), Canon D C Gray.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Batten short service/plainsong, O Domine Deus (Jeffreys); 3.30 E, Moore: 1st fauxbourdon serv, Let my complaint (Morley).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: [illegible] Drop, drop slow tears (Walmsley), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Out of the deep (Morley); 12.30 HC, Rev Dr P Galloway.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Cast me not away (S S Wesley), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Wash me throughly (Wesley); Rev D Tickner; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Let my complaint (Batten), Rev C Fisher.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: George Washington, 1st American President 1789-97, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1732; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Gdansk, 1788; Robert Baden-Powell, Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, London, 1857, (his wife Olave, World Chief Guide, was born on this day, Wingerworth, Derbyshire, 1889); Eric Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, Brighton, 1882; Luis Bunuel, Spanish film director, Calanda, 1900.

DEATHS: Amerigo Vespucci, merchant and adventurer, Seville, 1512; Jean-Baptiste Corot, painter, Paris, 1875; Stefan Zweig, novelist, Petropolis, Brazil, 1942; Andy Warhol, painter, New York, 1987; Solomon, pianist, London, 1988.

Last invasion of Britain: French troops landed in Pembrokeshire on this day in 1797, but surrendered two days later.

The Times ran the first classified personal column, 1886.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Samuel Pepys, diarist, London, 1633; George Frederick Handel, composer, Halle, Germany, 1685; Mayer Amschel Rothschild, banker, Frankfurt, 1734; John Walter II, chief proprietor of The Times 1812-47, London, 1776; George Watts, painter, London, 1817; Victor Fleming, film director, Pasadena, California, 1883.

DEATHS: Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1st President of the Royal Academy 1768-92, London, 1792; John Keats, poet, Rome, 1821; William Butterfield, architect of the Gothic revival, London, 1900; Dame Nellie Melba, soprano, Sydney, New South Wales, 1931; Sir Edward Elgar, Master of the King's Musick 1924-34, Worcester, 1934; Leo Hendrick Baekeland, inventor of Bakelite, Beacon, New York, 1944; Stan Laurel (né Arthur Stanley Jefferson), comedian, Santa Monica, California, 1965; L.S. Lowry, painter, Glossop, Derbyshire, 1976; Herbert Howells, composer, London, 1983; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Farnham, Surrey, 1983.

The Cato Street conspiracy was uncovered, 1820.

Major Walter Winfield patented an outdoor game he called "sphairistike", later known as lawn tennis, 1874.

The Rotary Club was founded in Chicago, 1905.

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I shall be with you to protect you wherever you go, and I shall bring you back to this land. I shall not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28 : 15

BIRTHS

ASH - On February 20th, to Hilary (née Briggs) and Jon, a daughter, Jasmine.

DENBY - On February 15th, to Andrea (née Duckham) and Richard, a daughter, Hannah Sophie.

HARMSWORTH - On 6th February at The Portland Hospital to Atalanta and Raymond, a boy, Alfred Thomas Hildebrand - much sooner than expected but the most loved and precious gift of all [illegible]

LESBERG SMITH - On 16th February, to Petra and Barry, a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for Sophie.

QURESHI - On February 8th 1997, to Sameena and Tahir, a beautiful daughter, Aneesa Sabrina.

SYKES - On 19th February 1997, to Anne (née Hennebry) and Matthew, a son, Rupert William George, twin brother to Henry Nicholas Alexander who was stillborn.

WRIGHT - See Harmsworth.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

KNIGHTING:HOPKIRK - On 22nd February 1947, Ernest to Audrey Mary. "I wonder by my troth what thou and I did till we loved".

DEATHS

ABEL - Mary Kathleen of Hayling Island, on 18th February 1997 after a short illness. Funeral on 3rd March at 2.15 pm, Exeter Crematorium. No flowers. Donations to Christian Witness to Israel and British & Foreign Bible Society may be sent to F.J. Luxton F/D, Ottery St Mary, Devon.

CHAPPLE - John Edward passed away suddenly on 18th February aged 63. Loving husband of Rita, dear father of Judith and Belinda and father-in-law of David and Graham. Beloved grandad of Jocelyn and Hannah. Funeral at 1 pm Thursday 27th February at St Mary's Church, Hitchin. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to The Stroke Association c/o David J. Binks Funeral Director, 96 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SU.

COOPER - Bruce Lusk aged 83 peacefully at home on February 19th. Much loved husband of Elis, father of Andrew and Jill, grandfather of Emily and Nikki. Private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to the R.N.L.I. c/o F & W Green, Funeral Directors, 19 Eskin Street, Keswick, Cumbria, tel: (017687) 72246. Thanksgiving Service to be arranged later.

DEAN - Alan Robert aged 71 on February 19th at Musgrove Park Hospital, peacefully after a courageous fight against cancer. Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Exford, on February 28th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations may be given to the church c/o J & E Hayes F/D, Porlock, Somerset TA24 8NE.

EFFAH - David Samson on February 14th 1997 in London, aged 71, after a short illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Lucy and dearly loved father of David, Marian, Edward, Lucy, Margaret, Akwasi, William and Osei. Requiem Mass at St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Road, London NW1, 7 pm Friday February 28th. Service at Mbrom, Kumasi, Thursday 6th March morning, burial Juansa thereafter. Funeral Saturday 8th March afternoon, Konadu Yiadom, Kumasi. Memorial Service at St Louis College, Mbrom, Kumasi, Sunday 9th March morning.

FORREST - Gertrude Ann (née Morgan), widow of Commander John William Forrest, died peacefully in Bath on February 18th 1997, aged 82 years. Funeral Service will be held at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath on Thursday February 27th at 1.30 pm. Donations for the Samaritans may be sent to Jollys Funeral Directors, 7 Windsor Place, Upper Bristol Road, Bath.

HOWARD - Thomas Were (Tom), formerly of Loughton, Essex. Died peacefully on 20th February 1997 at Prince Michael of Kent Court, Watford, aged 81. Cremation private. Memorial Service to be announced. No flowers please. Donations to Prince Michael of Kent Court Amenity Fund, Stratford Road, Watford WD1 3QH.

MARTIN - On 10th February, suddenly in France, Michael Anthony of Wadhurst, much loved partner of Jennet and the beloved son of Beverly and William. Requiem Mass has taken place.

MATHERS - Jean Ethel Macleod (née Mather) born Poona, India 1917. Wife of the late Major D.A.F. Mathers 14th Punjab Regiment. A very special Aunt and friend to us all. Funeral has already taken place. Donations to British Red Cross and any correspondence to T.J. Nelson c/o P & S Gallagher, Fraser House, Triangle Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4HW, tel: (01444) 451166.

PLATT - Rosemary Elizabeth (Rosy). On 18th February 1997, at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, peacefully after a sudden and short illness. Much loved Sister, Aunt and Great-Aunt. Private funeral. No flowers please.

SEATON - Dr. Shirley 20th February 1997 peacefully at home after courageous struggle, beloved wife of Ray, loving inspirational mother to Mark and Miles. Funeral Tuesday 25th February 3 pm Seamarris. Flowers, sprays only to Funeral Directors J. Williams, (01248) 810642.

SMYTHE - Rev. Paul Rodney, M.A, B.D. on February 17th 1997 at Horningsea, Cambridge, aged 91. Service at Horningsea Wednesday February 26th 1997 at 3.30pm.

STOBART - Paul, son of the late Col. Hugh Morton Stobart and the late Mrs Ian Fairbairn and brother of Rupert. Much loved by his stepmother Rosalie and his family and many friends. Cremation private. Service of Remembrance to be announced at a later date.

SYMONDS - Dr. Mike at home with his family, on 18th February, aged 67 years. Husband of Rowena and father of William, James and Joanna. Funeral at All Saints Church, Epping Upland, at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 26th February. No flowers please, but donations may be made to The Director, St Mark's Hospital, Northwick Park, Harrow or The Practice Manager, The High Street Surgery, Epping.

SYMONDSON - Sheila, on 21st February, beloved wife of Alastair and mother of Hamish. Funeral private. Donations to The Royal Marsden.

WALL - Elizabeth on 19th February at home. Much loved wife of Peter and mother of Rachel and Alicia. Requiem Mass at Christ the Prince of Peace, Portmore Way, Weybridge on Thursday 27th February at 10 am and afterwards at Sparta Rodova Road. Flowers may be sent to Funeral Directors, F. Chitty, 45 Elmgrove Road, Weybridge, tel: (01932) 842220, but Masses preferred.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ELIASSON - Jan-Erik Viktor. A Memorial Service will take place on Friday 7th March at 3.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Byfleet. Any enquiries to Janet Gunn (01932) 853863.

BIRTHDAYS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ERIC FENBY

Eric Fenby, OBE, musician, died on February 18 at the age of 90. He was born on April 22, 1906.

Eric Fenby will be remembered for his work as amanuensis to the blind and paralysed Frederick Delius in the last six years of the composer's life, an achievement without parallel in the history of music.

Fenby gave a classic account of this truly remarkable collaboration, of the will triumphing over the body, in *Delius as I Knew Him*, first published in 1936. It reached a wider audience when faithfully recreated in Ken Russell's memorable 1968 BBC television *Omnibus* film, *Song of Summer*, with Christopher Gable as the young Fenby and Max Adrian as Delius. Fenby himself called the film a "remarkable representation" with Adrian looking and behaving exactly as he remembered the composer. In the last painful months, as Delius's condition rapidly deteriorated and his wife Jelka underwent a critical operation for cancer, Fenby acted as nurse to the composer, who eventually died in his arms.

Eric William Fenby was born in Scarborough. His exceptional musical ability was apparent at an early age. Blessed with perfect pitch, he was largely self-taught. His initial training was as an organist, for which at the age of 12 he was appointed to Holy Trinity Church, Scarborough. At 16 he left school (where he had founded a small orchestra), and was articled to Claude Keeton, the leading organist and musician of the district. His various musical skills were soon much in demand, rehearsing local choral societies and amateur orchestras as well as accompanying singers. But it was Alick Maclean, the renowned conductor of the Scarborough Orchestra, who, recognising his compositional gifts, allowed him to conduct one or two of his youthful works at the morning Spa concerts.

Fenby's Roman Catholic faith remained central to him throughout his life and at one stage he even considered entering a Benedictine monastery. But in 1928 a chance hearing of a piece of music on the radio altered the course of his life. He was so profoundly moved by his first acquaintance with the music of Delius and by reading of the composer's condition — with music still within him that he was unable to communicate to paper — that he became obsessed with the idea of assisting him.

He wrote first a letter of admiration to Delius at his home in Grez-sur-Loing in France. The warm acknowledgement that he received prompted him to write again, this time offering his services. In October 1928, the 22-year-old Fenby crossed to France. During the next six years he divided his time between France and England, and achieved the almost impossible in devising a method of dictation by which the ailing Delius could give life to those works, some already part sketched, that he had been unable to complete because of his physical condition.

In this way an important body of works, instrumental, vocal, orchestral and choral, was added to the Delius canon, culminating in the astonishing achievement of the *Songs of Farewell*, a setting of five poems by Walt Whitman for double chorus and orchestra first performed in 1932.

After Delius's death, Fenby was "completely burnt out". In 1935 he helped Sir Thomas Beecham with the Covent Garden production of Delius's opera *Koanga*. The following year he became music adviser to Boosey & Hawkes, the firm that had published Delius's dictated works, and he brought to their attention the music of the young Benjamin Britten.

Although Fenby had sporadically continued with his own compositions, which included a symphony, a cello concerto and a choral setting of Francis Thompson's *The Hound of Heaven*, he later destroyed them all in the firm belief that "only genius matters". One work that has survived is the delightful pastiche overture, *Rossini on Ilkla Moor*. Through his acquaintance with Charles Laughton, he was invited to provide the music for Alfred Hitchcock's 1939 film *Jamaica Inn*, but the prospect of further film work was terminated by the outbreak of the Second World War.

Fenby saw service first in the Royal Artillery at Blandford, Dorset, transferring before long to the Royal Army Education Corps at Bulford, Wiltshire, where he conducted the Southern Command Orchestra. Eventually he received a commission to run RAEC courses at Cuerdon Hall, Preston.

In 1944 he married Rowena Marshall, a nurse at the Scarborough Hospital, and after the war he founded the music department of the North Riding Training College at Scarborough, which he directed from 1948 until 1962. On the death of Sir Thomas Beecham, he was appointed artistic director of the 1962 Bradford Delius Centenary Festival, after which he was appointed OBE.

Through the vision of Sir Thomas Armstrong, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, he was Professor of Harmony there from 1964 until 1977. Further recognition came his way in 1968 when he became chairman of the Composer's Guild of Great Britain.

In 1972 he joined the committee of the Royal Philharmonic Society, being made an honorary member in 1984. He also received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Jacksonville in Florida, Warwick and Bradford, and honorary fellowships or memberships of the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music and Trinity College of Music.

Fenby's later years were almost as closely associated with the music of Delius as the earlier ones had been. In 1971 he wrote a book on the composer, intended chiefly for younger readers. With his unique knowledge of the scores, his assistance in the editing of certain works was sought by the Delius Trust; as president of both the Delius Society in London and the Delius Association of Florida he took great delight in becoming far more active than such office normally requires.

His many years of writing, lecturing and broadcasting on the composer saw a happy fruition when he was invited to conduct Delius, both in England and America, in public and in the recording studio. To mark his 75th birthday he recorded for Unicorn-Kanchana *The Fenby Legacy*, comprising all the orchestral works he had taken down from Delius's dictation.

That same year he participated in the Yorkshire TV documentary *Song of Farewell*, for which he revisited Grez-sur-Loing. His last appearance was in the Delius Trust-sponsored 1993 hour-long documentary *Discovering Delius*, which has yet to be televised in this country.

A final, fitting tribute, and one that gave him a great deal of pleasure, was paid to him on the occasion of his 90th birthday last April. *Fenby on Delius*, compiled and edited by Stephen Lloyd, took the form of a collection of more than 50 years of his writings, lectures and broadcasts on the composer.

Eric Fenby was a man of great personal charm, sensitivity and humility. He is survived by his wife Rowena, and a son and daughter.

LEO ROSTEN

Leo Rosten, author, died on February 19 aged 88. He was born in April 11, 1908.

LEO ROSTEN was a prolific author, but his claim to immortality rests principally on one book, *The Education of Hyman Kaplan*. It was published in America in 1937, long before ethnicity had become an issue there and newcomers were still anxious to lose all traces of their origins and become good, all-round Americans. As a start they had to attend English evening classes. Rosten's character Hyman Kaplan was the star of one such class, eager, zealous and blithely unaware of the torments he inflicts on the English language and on his long-suffering English teacher, Mr Parkhill.

One critic complained that "Jewish dialect jokes are not Jewish at all, but the confections of anti-Semites who delight in ridiculing and slandering Jews". But the book struck an immediate chord among millions of people who could corroborate the events in Mr Parkhill's class from their own experience and who could hear tortured Kaplanesque English on every side.

Rosten tried to recapture his success with *The Return of Hyman Kaplan* (1959) and *O Kaplan! My Kaplan!* (1976). Neither made the same impact. But his 1968 *The Joys of Yiddish* did better. It was a serious lexicon of Yiddish in English written in a light-hearted way with a rich collection of Jewish jokes to illustrate the different words, as well as what he called "Yinglish" — Yiddish terms and forms of expression which had made their way into the English language. It became a best-seller, for if Hyman Kaplan's generation were impatient to become American, their sons and grandsons, having been born American, were anxious to recover something of their Jewishness.

Leo Calvin Rosten was born in Lodz, Poland, but was only three years old when his parents moved to the United States, settling in Chicago. He took a doctorate in political science at Chicago University, and went on to study under Harold Laski at the London School of Economics.

He took various jobs to pay for his studies and worked for a time at a night school for immigrants. He had a sharp ear and a retentive memory and Hyman Kaplan grew out of his experience. The stories first appeared in *The New Yorker* before they were brought together in book form published under the pen-name of Leonard Q. Ross. Rosten was a university teacher by then, and as a serious academic did not care to be associated with light fiction.

Rosten taught sociology at Columbia, Yale and Berkeley and became a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was elected an honorary Fellow of the LSE in 1975.

He was the editor of *A Guide to the Religions of America* (1957), and author of the curiously titled *112 Gripes About the French*. In 1939 he was placed at the head of a team of researchers to produce a definitive history of Hollywood. It was a scholarly but accessible work which had his own light touches, but, published on December 7, 1941, it passed unnoticed. Rosten's knowledge of the movie industry, however, led to his appointment as chief of the motion picture division of the Office of Facts and Figures in Washington, and in 1942 he became Deputy Director of War Information.

Rosten's interest in Hollywood, initially academic, became something of an obsession. He wrote six screenplays, all of them forgettable and indeed forgotten. He was also author of a number of novels, none of them of any great merit, but one of which, *Captain Newman MD* (1962), about an army psychiatrist, some of whose patients could have passed for Hyman Kaplan, was made into a major film with Gregory Peck in 1963.

After *The Joys of Yiddish* was published in 1968, there was an attempt to turn it into a musical. But, better read than sung, it never reached Broadway. Rosen followed it up with *Hooray for Yiddish!* (1983) and *The Joys of Yinglish* (1989), but though both sparkled with wit, the public's passion for Yiddish had peaked.

Handsome, and with a taste for Savile Row suits, Rosten looked every inch the WASP. Yiddish sounded almost strange on his lips, but his love for the language derived from his love for a vanished world which placed him well to the right of both the liberal Jewish establishment and the American academic establishment.

He was a clubbable man, and his years at the LSE had left him with a lingering fondness for London, which he visited at least once a year and where he was a member of the Savile, the Reform and the Garrick.

Leo Rosten married Priscilla Mead in 1935. She predeceased him. Then, in 1960 he married Gertrude Zimmerman. Gertrude survives him together with a son and two daughters of his first marriage.

STANLEY PEARSON

Stanley Pearson, the Manchester United and England forward, died on February 20, aged 78. He was born on January 11, 1919.

STAN PEARSON was an outstanding member of the first of Sir Matt Busby's three great teams at Manchester United. As a team they were the least successful in terms of trophies, winning the 1948 FA Cup and the 1952 League title. But many older supporters still hold that they were the best — certainly the best to watch.

That may be debatable, but there are strong arguments for suggesting that the forward line of Delaney, Morris, Rowley, Pearson and Mitten was the most lethal of all in a team geared to attack. As flamboyant and colourful as their red shirts, the team provided entertainment for the huge postwar crowds.

The 1948 Cup Final, in which they beat Blackpool 4-2, has gone down as the outstanding postwar final, and a 6-4 win at Aston Villa in the fifth round, after leading 5-1 at half-time, captures the flavour of their approach. "In the days when we were playing we were lucky," Pearson once reflected. "I can never remember at any time going anywhere and playing for a draw. We went to win, and that was the attitude of all teams then."

Pearson was a key figure at inside left both as a creator and as a fine finisher. "He was the general," a team-mate said. "He could play one touch or he could dwell on it." Pearson's preference was for one touch, and he enjoyed an almost telepathic understanding with Charlie Mitten, his left winger, and Henry Cockburn the left half. Their triangular work was a feature of United's play.

"They should have played the three of us together for England," Mitten frequently maintained, most loudly when England lost in the 1950 World Cup to the USA, a team United had beaten earlier that summer on their own tour of America. As it was, Pearson played only eight times for England, scoring five goals, including the pair which beat Scotland in 1952. The war inevitably affected his career, as it did half his team-mates.

Stanley Pearson joined United from Salford boys as a 17-year-old in 1936, making his league debut only a year later in the second division after only two reserve games. United won promotion that season, 1937-38, and Pearson was beginning to establish himself when war broke out.

He spent the war in India and Burma, most of it, by his own account, playing football for army sides. He returned in February 1946 to play the last part of the transitional 1945-46 season under United's new manager, Matt Busby. It was to be the start of United's emergence under Busby, from being the second side in Manchester to becoming the biggest club in the country.

The nucleus of the side — Carey, Aston, Pearson, Mitten, Rowley, Cockburn, Chilton and Anderson — had been assembled before the war, Morris arriving during it. It was quickly evident that Busby had rich raw material to work with.

The third round tie at Aston Villa suggested something special was occurring. Pearson scored twice, including the vital sixth goal to end Villa's fightback — "one of the most valuable he's ever scored for the club," Busby said. Even more valuable ones were to follow on the way to Wembley. Before the semi-final against Derby the tension got to him and he was sick; he went out to score a hat-trick in United's 3-1 win. In the Final he scored United's decisive third goal.

The League championship took longer to win, finally arriving in 1952 as most of the team approached the veteran stage. They were still capable of dazzling performances, ending Arsenal's challenge with a 6-1 victory at Old Trafford to clinch the championship, Pearson scoring twice.

He stayed another 18 months. In all he played 304 league matches and scored 125 goals for United before joining Bury. He ended his professional career at Chester as player-manager and then manager. When that did not work out, he took over a newsagents and sub-post office in Prestbury, but his love of football remained and he was a season ticket holder at Old Trafford.

His wife Elsie predeceased him. He is survived by a son.

IRIS FREEMAN

Iris Freeman, solicitor and biographer, died of cancer on February 17 aged 69. She was born on July 7, 1927.

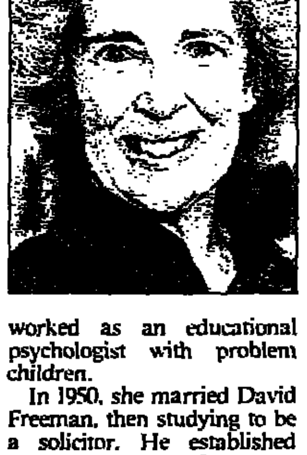
TO BE called "gifted with a first-rate intellect and power of expression" by someone of Lord Denning's intellect is praise indeed. It does not immediately bring to mind someone who adored the romance of life, an attractive woman with a warm smile that never seemed to leave her lips.

Iris Freeman had four careers, an example to those daunted by a midlife job change and to working mothers. She became an eminent employment law solicitor, though qualifying only in her forties, having already worked as a child psychologist, then staying at home for the full-time career of mother. She only began putting pen to paper, for a biography of Lord Denning, when she was in her sixties. She was working on a biography of Lord Goodman when she died. The diversity of careers reflected Freeman's passion for everything in life.

Freeman believed she should keep her professional careers on hold to bring up her two sons and daughter. She guided them gently until they went up to Oxford, inspiring them with her infectious love of literature, from A. A. Milne to Shakespeare. When her younger son was too lazy to read textbooks, she read them aloud to him: he won a scholarship to Balliol. All three children excelled.

The diplomacy she used with her children worked in her legal disputes. To settle a threatened strike, she shut Jocelyn Stevens, then managing the *Daily Express*, and the union representative in a room, telling them that they could not come out until they were ready to talk. That was how to treat spoilt children, she told them, drawing on her child psychology. It worked.

Iris Margaret Freeman — born Iris Alberge — came from a comfortable middle-class background, her father running a silk business. She read psychology at University College London under the eminent Professor Birt. Between 1948 and 1951 she worked as an educational psychologist with problem children.



In 1950, she married David Freeman, then studying to be a solicitor. He established D J Freeman, one of the most dynamically successful City practices. The Freemans were a team and, as she enjoyed discussing with him human interest cases, at the age of 40 she took articles and joined his firm. As a partner, with his inspiration, she set up the employment law department — an area of law then in its infancy.

She acted for many prominent businesses but her cases rarely made headlines — she liked to smooth out problems before the press could take an interest. She was not a public person and acrimonious court battles with glorified victories were not her way.

She was not a believer in "isms" and had no time for feminism and positive discrimination, yet in her quiet way she encouraged women in D J Freeman, and prided herself on the firm's high percentage of female partners.

In 1993 she was recommended to Hutchinson to write a biography of Lord Denning and she threw herself into the task with her usual enthusiasm. He later became a close friend. Reviewing *Lord Denning: A Life*, the MP David Mellor described it as "fully-researched ... written with a love and affection towards its subject that never degenerates into hagiography"; and Lord Hailsham called the book "perceptively and entertainingly written".

Freeman mixed among famous faces, Prime Ministers such as Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher, business tycoons, judges, academics. But she treated everyone with equal interest and respect. Fame meant so little to her that she sometimes failed to recognise a well-known face next to her at a dinner. People warmed to her for that reason.

Nothing gave her greater pleasure than her family — including nine grandchildren — or working in the garden. She and her husband shared an insatiable love of literature and the theatre. For 25 years they were governors of the Royal Shakespeare Company. That was the nearest she got to a fifth career, her earliest desire, to be an actress.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and a daughter.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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SAVIN, NIKOLAY VLADIMIROVICH of 35 Gogol Street, Petrozavodsk Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic died on 11 September 1938 particulars to NABARRO NATHANSON Solicitors of 50 STRATTON STREET, LONDON W1X 6NX (Ref: LA/IGL/JCW) before 23 April 1997

SAVIN, VLADIMIR FEDOROVICH of Village of Karat, District of Kso, Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic died on 13 January 1928 particulars to NABARRO NATHANSON Solicitors of 50 STRATTON STREET, LONDON W1X 6NX (Ref: LA/IGL/JCW) before 23 April 1997

SAVINA, NADEZHDA MATVEEVNA of 16 Polevaya Ulitsa, Petrozavodsk, Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic died on 4 September 1932 particulars to NABARRO NATHANSON Solicitors of 50 STRATTON STREET, LONDON W1X 6NX (Ref: LA/IGL/JCW) before 23 April 1997

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APPLETON, FRANCES MARION of 109 Talgarth Road, London W14 died on 20 October 1996 particulars to DAWSON CORNWELL & CO Solicitors of 16 RED LION SQUARE, LONDON WC1R 4QT (Ref: MPB) before 29 April 1997

GLADYS CHIRNALL 202 Marvels Lane Grove Park and 1 Lime Close Bickley died 2 February 1997. Particulars to David Smith 22 Holland Road, Hove, Sussex before 10th May 1997

PUBLIC NOTICES

DELAMORE nee WISTOW, BLANCHE DELAMORE nee WISTOW widow Late of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died there on the 19th January 1996 (residuary estate about £120,000.00). The kin of the above named are requested to apply to Messrs. Bradford and Son, Solicitors of 9 Moorgate Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S60 2EN.

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ON THIS DAY

February 22, 1947

The winter of 1947 seemed never-ending. Some idea of its widespread effect can be seen by the announcement from the Ministry of Fuel and Power that weekly newspapers and periodicals that had been suspended might resume regular publication soon.

FUEL OUTLOOK
UTMOST ECONOMY ESSENTIAL
WEATHER GETS WORSE

Although coal stocks have improved, the utmost economy is officially stated to be essential because of deteriorating weather.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power stated last night:-

The weather is still deteriorating. Snow is falling heavily over most of England, and frequent snow showers are to be expected in districts not now affected. Temperatures day and night will be at freezing point except in coastal districts of Scotland, where day temperatures will be slightly above freezing. Winds are strong, with gales expected locally in the south. Visibility in the North Sea is poor, and there are very heavy seas running off the north-east coast, where ten ships are still weatherbound. The further outlook is not encouraging.

Power stations' stocks rose again on Thursday by about half a day's supply, except in the London area, where additions to stock were the lowest for the past four days. The eight main London power stations' stock again rose only very slightly. Gas coal stocks were maintained on Thursday in the London area at 221,000 tons, but the position is far from satisfactory, and the utmost economy is still essential.

Coal savings on Thursday amounted to 31,690 tons, a decrease of about 15 per cent. on the savings of Thursday last week. This decrease is particularly noticeable in the "white" area, where savings have fallen by 30 per cent. If coal stocks at power stations in the "white" area are to be maintained, this increase in electricity consumption must be arrested, and all consumers must increase their efforts to economize to the fullest extent. Total coal savings since the restrictions began now amount to 327,000 tons.

PERIODICALS AGAIN

The Ministry of Fuel stated last night:-

All weekly periodicals and such weekly newspapers as are temporarily suspending publication this week and next owing to the fuel crisis may resume regular publication in the week beginning Monday, March 3. Printing, processing and other production work should be resumed at the latest possible moment to make such publications possible.

SHIPPING WARNED OF ICE-FLOES

Snow fell over a great part of the country yesterday. Villages were again isolated and cleared roads were blocked once more. Watch is being kept on the movement of ice-floes in the North Sea, and shipping has been warned.

An Admiralty spokesman said yesterday that there was a tendency for the ice-floes to drift south. It was probable that a big ice-floe and a smaller one a short distance south of it would eventually straddle the shipping routes in the mouth of The Thames.

Dislocation of train and tramcar services may occur this morning because of ice jamming points. Delays were experienced last night.

At midnight the temperature in London was 25deg., which was 4deg. lower than the previous night.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

5th

NEWS

Bridgewater police may be charged

■ Two former police officers face possible criminal charges after three men jailed for the murder of Carl Bridgewater walked free yesterday.

The detective constables allegedly forged a confession which was instrumental in sending the men to prison for 18 years. Cheers greeted Vincent Hickey, his cousin Michael and James Robinson, who were released on unconditional bail. A fourth man, Patrick Molloy, died in prison .... Pages 1, 6, 7

German paper stands by Rifkind slur

■ A German newspaper which is closely aligned to Chancellor Kohl stood by its description of the Foreign Secretary as "the Jew Rifkind" .... Page 1

Drug daughter jailed

The pregnant daughter of a prominent businessman was jailed for 11 years for trying to smuggle cocaine into Britain .... Page 3

Girls missing

The families of two French girls were searching London's West End for the missing 16-year-olds .... Page 3

Fashion furore

Twenty schoolgirls have sparked a row by starring for Vivienne Westwood at the start of London Fashion Week .... Page 4

Top 40 discord

Record companies are giving away so many free and discounted singles to boost their success in the Top 40 that the BBC says the chart has lost its credibility .... Page 9

Fight for faith

The Archbishop of York will oppose the establishment of American-style tele-evangelism TV and radio stations in Britain .. Page 10

Rush to Trinity

After three decades of being shunned, Trinity College Dublin is resuming its traditional role as the Oxbridge of Ireland ... Page 13

Belgrade change

A massive street party was planned after the appointment of a new mayor ended 50 years of Socialist rule in Belgrade, the Serbian capital .... Page 14

Invitation to Queen

The Queen will be formally invited by President Weizman to pay her first visit to Israel .... Page 15

Rivals for Jiang

President Jiang Zemin of China has failed to consolidate his grip on power, according to a CIA report .... Page 16

Nato opposition

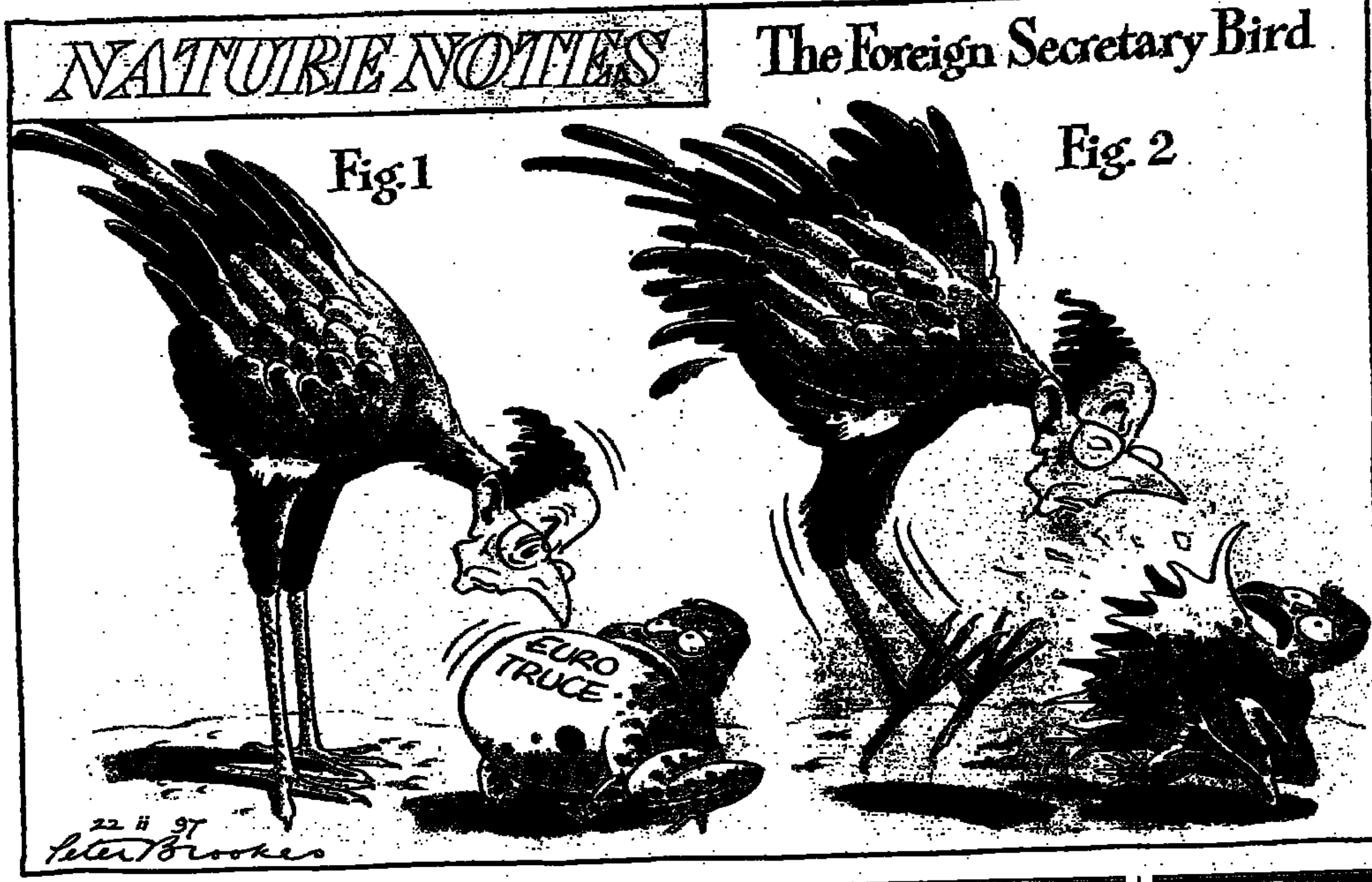
Russia maintained stiff opposition to Nato's expansion eastward at the end of talks in Moscow with Madeleine Albright .... Page 17

Sunday cricket seeks wider appeal

■ One-day cricket will undergo a revolution if proposals are approved by the English Cricket Board. Surrey want to change their name to the Surrey Lions, play pop music between overs and play under floodlights in the Axa Life League .... Page 1

NATURE NOTES

The Foreign Secretary Bird



OPINION

Guide in perplexity: Dr Sacks's book deserves to become a key text .... Page 23

Too long to languish: It must never be allowed to happen again .... Page 23

Love, Fidel: The real pity is that the young Cuban writer of love letters grew into a long-winded old Communist tyrant .... Page 23

OBITUARIES

Eric Fenby, musician; **Leo Rosten**, author; **Iris Freeman**, solicitor; **Stanley Pearson**, Manchester United footballer .... Page 25

Jonathan Sacks: I have been dismayed at the quality and depth of our public conversation as we approach the Millennium and think about our collective future .... Page 22

Simon Jenkins: The grand house in its estate is Britain's most distinctive and lasting contribution to European culture. Nobody does them like us .... Page 22

LETTERS

Life insurance and genetic tests; anti-Semitism in Shakespeare plays; Oxbridge Unions .... Page 23

$86 m payout: Binder Hamlyn, former auditor of Britannia Security, has agreed to pay $86 million to ADT, the electronic security group, over the acquisition of Britannia in 1990 .... Page 27

NatWest claim: NatWest is believed to be seeking up to £10 million compensation from Tesco .... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 19.3 points to 4336.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 97.3 to 97.4 after a rise from $1.6112 to $1.6191 and DM2.7213 to DM2.7253 .... Page 30

Football: Patrick Kluivert, the Ajax and Holland forward, has turned down £25,000 a week with Chelsea to join AC Milan .... Page 52

Cricket: England's cricketers are beginning to reap the benefits of the sort of fitness regime that has offended traditionalists .... Page 49

Rugby union: Northern clubs have a chance to make an impact in the Pilkington Cup .... Page 48

Keep your dog safe; motorcycle fashion

Modern marriage: Mobile phones and videos adorn the set of English Touring Opera's *Marriage of Figaro*, but the surface glitz cannot compensate for lack of characterisation and idea .... Page 20

Debussy rhapsody: Michael Tilson Thomas and the LSO provided revelations in their Debussy celebration .... Page 20

Fuller figured: Sixties film guru Sam Fuller is alive and well, as Channel 4's season starting on Tuesday reveals .. Page 21

SECTIONS

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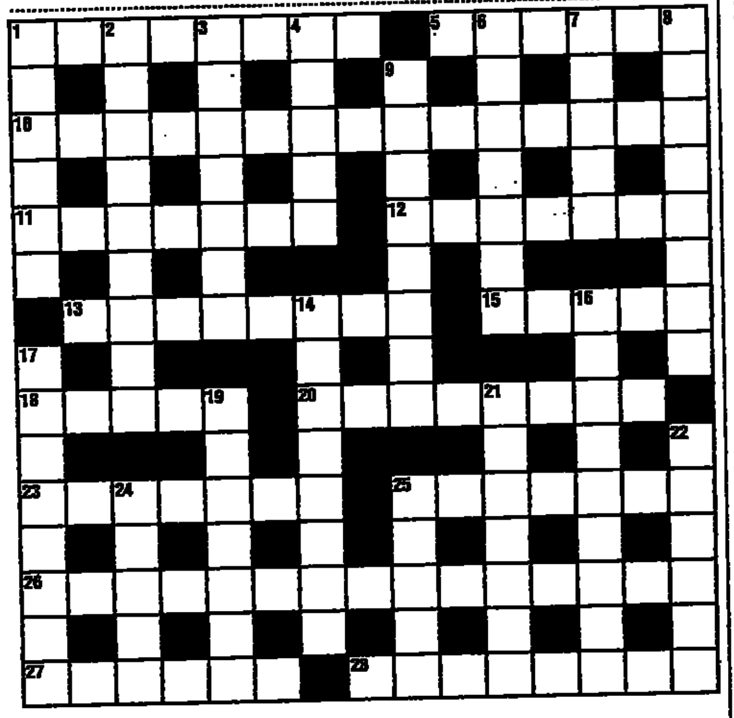
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,410

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Virus infection in birds sounds awful nuisance (4,4).
5 Game that's possibly based on pontoon ... (6).
10 ... and another that's likely to go to sudden death finish (7,8).
11 Former unit returned discharge (3-4).
12 Sort of surgery that enabled the butler to see (7).
13 Young man after money, a belligerent American (8).
15 Took the underground back, coming out here? (5).
18 Continue imitating Miss Bell (5).
20 Supports for wood and metal clubs (8).
23 Debate sounds as if it's a sporting event (7).
25 Is it useless for those fighting at the front? (4-3).
26 Training with anaesthetic in medical group (7,8).
27 With rail connections, they stand by for flights (6).
28 Self-defence as justified by Newman (8).

DOWN

1 Litter dropped by swine producing long dispute (6).
2 Flat is cleaned inside (6,3).
3 Quiet promenade bringing couples together (7).
4 Seeing that evil dominates the church (5).
6 Broadcast from early edition cut off (7).
7 Over the top I had erected something similar (5).
8 As I can represent a couple of them (8).
9 How Robin looked with a squint (8).
14 In France, he gets into golf club in an impudent way (8).
16 Orchestra getting on dressing (9).
17 Cavalry officer on magnificent bay (8).
19 Sitting on the fence in colourless gear (7).
21 Thoroughgoing revolutionary (7).
22 A second English degree for very changeable type (6).
24 Source of strength one revealed in news broadcast (5).
25 Rising shares hanger-on depends on (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,404

```
AVENGER BESIDES
D O L E O T O W
DEUCE CAMBRIDGE
I A A T B A G A
SOLEMNISE PLEAT
O I   T   P   E
NESTA UNTAINTED
  E Q D E N A  
HERCULEAN GORED
A   A   T   P E
LOWER CHARABANC
Y O E L C T U I
APRILFOOL SALAD
R K L U E E I E
DESSERT STAINER
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,409

```
GETTHROUGH BEEF
O E O A R P D A
TUMBLER ORATION
U P D S U S F A
PATROLMEN TRYST
  R N E D P   I
CREWE NOSTALGIC
O S S     R R A
POSTHASTE TRIAL
Y   O T M I M  
RISER EXPECTANT
I I S A A I C I
GENTEEL NAPPING
H G S T E L N E
TIED CHALLENGER
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D J Pearce, Bryncethin, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan; E Walle, Hellingly, East Sussex; M Snow, Eglwyswrw Crymych, Pembrokeshire; G S Cooper, Hyde, Cheshire; C D Bates, Chesham, Buckinghamshire.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.01 am	Sun sets: 5.29 pm
Moon sets 6.47 am	Moon rises 5.49 pm

Full moon today

London 5.29 pm to 6.53 am
Bristol 5.38 pm to 7.08 am
Edinburgh 5.32 pm to 7.19 am
Manchester 5.33 pm to 7.10 am
Penzance 5.52 pm to 7.18 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.59 am	Sun sets: 5.30 pm
Moon sets 7.12 am	Moon rises 6.51 pm

Last quarter March 2

London 5.30 pm to 6.57 am
Bristol 5.40 pm to 7.06 am
Edinburgh 5.34 pm to 7.17 am
Manchester 5.35 pm to 7.08 am
Penzance 5.54 pm to 7.16 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01.54	6.9	14.15	7.0
Aberdeen	01.27	4.0	13.35	4.2
Avonmouth	07.19	12.8	19.40	12.8
Belfast	11.08	3.5	23.31	3.2
Cardiff	07.05	11.8	19.26	11.8
Devonport	05.48	5.3	18.07	5.2
Dover	11.13	6.3	23.30	6.5
Dublin (N Wall)	11.48	4.1	23.59	3.8
Falmouth	05.19	5.1	17.38	5.0
Greenock	00.49	3.0	12.39	3.3
Harwich	-	-	12.07	3.7
Holyhead	10.30	5.5	22.47	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	06.30	8.2	18.38	8.5
Ilfracombe	06.05	8.3	18.24	8.8
King's Lynn	06.35	6.2	18.41	6.5
Leith	02.45	5.2	15.03	5.3
Liverpool	11.24	9.1	23.41	9.1
Lowestoft	09.55	2.3	21.45	2.5
Margate	-	-	12.25	4.4
Milford Haven	06.21	6.6	18.38	6.6
Newquay	05.12	6.7	17.29	6.6
Oban	05.46	3.8	18.15	3.9
Penzance	04.43	5.3	17.00	5.3
Portland	06.58	1.8	19.25	1.7
Portsmouth	11.20	4.4	23.45	4.5
Shoreham	11.20	5.9	23.43	6.1
Southampton	10.53	4.4	23.12	4.4
Swansea	06.24	9.3	18.42	9.2
Tees	03.49	4.9	16.30	5.2
Walton-on-N	-	-	12.00	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Heathrow airport and Guernsey, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Aviemore, Highland, 1.04in; highest sunshine: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 7.6hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

☐ **General:** there will be a lot of cloud over England and Wales. The west will catch some drizzle but the east should be dry and bright, with even some sunshine in places. It will remain windy but very mild.

Western parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some rain or drizzle, heavier and more persistent in the evening. The east, though mostly cloudy, will be mainly dry and bright. Winds will be up to gale force in the west but it will be mild everywhere.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England:** mainly dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind mainly southwest, fresh or strong. Very mild. Max 12C (54F).

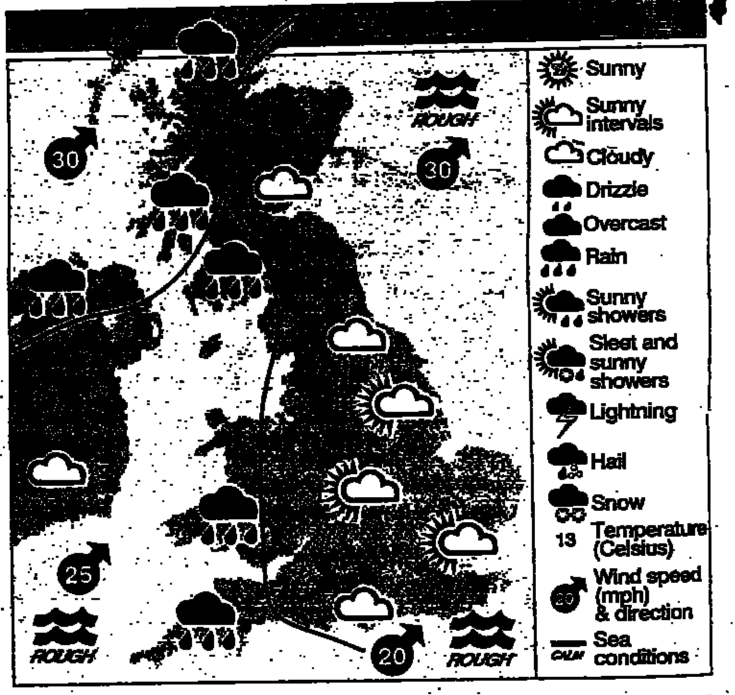
☐ **S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** mostly cloudy, some patchy coastal drizzle and hill fog. Wind southwest to south, mainly strong. Mild. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** mainly dry with bright or sunny spells. Wind mainly southwest, strong, locally gale. Mild. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** mostly cloudy; hill fog; some drizzle at times. Wind southwest to south, strong or gale. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with periods of rain or drizzle; hill fog. Wind southwest to south, gale or severe gale. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Monday:** continuing very windy, with rain or showers in all areas.

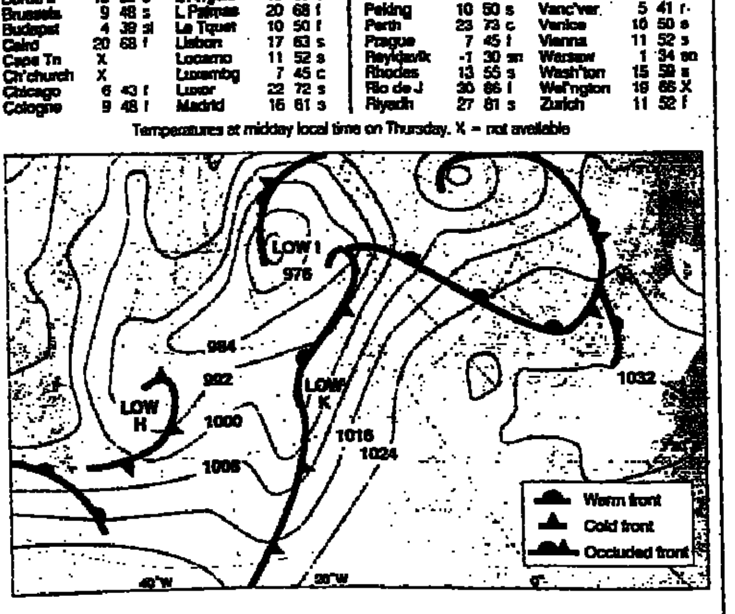


24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	8.9	0.05	8	46	s
Anglesey	3.5	0.02	11	52	b
Aspatria	2.6	0.34	9	48	sh
Aviemore	3.2	0.49	5	41	sn
Belfast	2.3	0.14	9	48	b
Birmingham	4.3	0.03	12	54	s
Bognor R	1.0	0.02	12	54	c
Bournem'th	3.8	0.01	13	55	s
Bristol	3.3	0.12	11	52	s
Buxton	6.0	0.52	8	46	s
Cardiff	4.2	0.12	10	50	r
Clacton	2.9	-	13	55	b
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	1.4	0.02	11	52	b
Cromer	5.1	-	13	55	s
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.01	10	50	du
Edinburgh	6.5	0.64	8	46	sh
Eskdalemuir	X				
Exmouth	4.2	0.01	14	57	s
Falmouth	0.8	0.01	12	54	c
Fishguard	5.0	0.01	11	52	s
Folkestone	1.0	0.01	11	52	c
Glasgow	2.1	0.46	8	46	sh
Guernsey	0.6	0.01	13	55	c
Hastings	-	0.01	10	50	c
Hayling I.	2.2	0.03	10	50	b
Herne Bay	1.8	-	13	55	b
Hove	0.2	X	9	48	du
Hunstanton	X	0.01	10	50	b
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	2.9	0.32	10	50	s
Jersey	0.2	0.01	11	52	c
Kinloss	2.7	0.21	7	45	sl
Leeds	6.4	0.33	11	52	b
Lerwick	1.8	0.21	5	41	sn
Leuchars	8.0	0.39	8	46	sh
Littlehmptn	0.6	0.02	12	54	b
London	2.9	0.04	14	57	b
Lowestoft	2.8	0.01	13	55	r
Manchester	4.3	0.15	11	52	sh
Margate	1.5	0.01	13	55	c
Minehead	5.8	0.07	13	55	s
Morecambe	2.7	0.11	9	48	b
Newcastle	X				
Newquay	X				
Norwich	4.2	-	13	55	b
Oxford	X				
Penzance	X				
Poole	3.3	0.01	14	57	s
Prestatyn	X	0.02	12	54	b
Ross-o-wye	4.4	-	13	55	s
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	0.2	0.02	11	52	c
Saunton Snd	3.5	0.04	11	52	s
Scarboro'	6.9	0.07	9	48	s
Shanklin	1.5	X	10	50	b
Shrewsbury	X				
Skegness	4.0	0.01	12	54	b
Southend	X				
Southport	4.2	0.04	9	48	s
Southsea	2.5	0.03	11	52	s
Stornoway	1.6	0.37	6	43	h
Swanage	4.7	0.04	12	54	s
Teignmouth	4.9	0.03	15	59	s
Tenby	4.4	0.09	12	54	s
Tiree	3.2	0.18	8	46	sh
Torquay	3.7	0.05	14	57	s
Tynemouth	-	0.02	10	50	c
Ventnor	-	-	10	50	du
West-s-mare	4.0	0.14	12	54	s
Weymouth	4.9	0.17	11	52	s

	C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s
Akrotiri	15	59	c
Alex'dria	17	63	c
Algiers	20	68	s
Amst'dm	8	46	f
Athens	9	48	f
B Aires	21	70	s
Bahrain	21	70	s
Bangkok	30	86	s
Barbados	X		
Barcelona	17	63	s
Beirut	17	63	f
Belgrade	5	41	f
Berlin	8	46	f
Bermuda	21	70	f
Biarritz	14	57	c
Borde'x	15	59	c
Brussels	9	48	s
Budapest	4	39	sl
Cairo	20	68	f
Cape Tn	X		
Ch'church	X		
Chicago	6	43	f
Cologne	9	48	f
Corfu	13	55	s
C'phagn	7	45	s
Dublin	10	50	c
Dubrovnik	10	50	f
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	12	54	s
Frankfurt	10	50	s
Funchal	17	63	f
Geneva	10	50	f
Gibraltar	17	63	f
Helsinki	1	34	c
Hong K	19	66	s
Innsbrck	11	52	f
Istanbul	5	41	r
Jeddah	27	81	s
Jo'burg	X		
L Angels	19	66	s
L Palmas	20	68	f
Le Touqt	10	50	f
Lisbon	17	63	s
Locarno	11	52	s
Luxembg	7	45	c
Luxor	22	72	s
Madrid	16	61	s
Majorca	19	66	s
Malaga	20	68	s
Malta	15	59	s
Melb'rne	39	102	s
Mexico C	22	72	s
Miami	28	82	s
Milan	14	57	s
Montreal	-6	21	s
Moscow	-7	19	s
Munich	10	50	f
N Delhi	21	70	s
N York	8	46	s
Nairobi	29	84	s
Naples	14	57	s
Nice	15	59	s
Oslo	2	36	c
Paris	11	52	f
Peking	10	50	s
Perth	23	73	c
Prague	7	45	f
Reykjavik	-1	30	sn
Rhodes	13	55	s
Rio de J	30	86	f
Riyadh	27	81	s
Rome	15	59	s
S Frisco	11	52	f
S Paulo	30	86	c
Salzburg	10	50	c
Santiago	31	88	s
Seoul	9	48	s
Sing'por	30	86	f
St'kholm	1	34	f
Strasb'rg	13	55	f
Sydney	27	81	f
Tangier	20	68	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Tenerife	20	68	s
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	0	32	f
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	17	63	s
Vanc'ver	5	41	r
Venice	10	50	s
Vienna	11	52	s
Warsaw	1	34	sn
Wash'ton	15	59	s
Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Zurich	11	52	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: complex low I will move eastwards with little change; low K will run quickly northeast and deepen a little; low M will move east and deepen

TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August or 6 September • five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • Niagara with helicopter • harbour cruise • CN Tower luncheon • Phanton of the Opera • Concorde supersonic return £1,999

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Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May • five night Oriana cruise to Monte-Carlo via Gibraltar • tour Riviera • Concorde supersonic from Nice £1,699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June • eleven night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Spitsbergen • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,999

Concorde supersonic from Heathrow to Bergen on 19 June • two night Oriana cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

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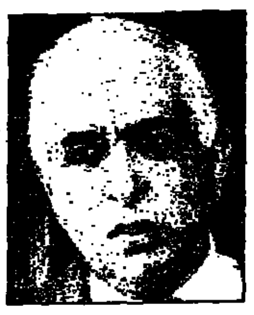

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1997

High Court finds for Hoechst to settle battle over patent

BP faces $100m damages bill

By Fraser Nelson

BRITISH PETROLEUM is facing damages of more than $100 million after the High Court found that it had *infringed a patent* belonging to Hoechst, the German chemicals group.

The oil company is understood to be heading for the heaviest patent damages claim in British legal history.

It was found to have been using a filter patented by Hoechst Celanese for *six* years, and could now be forced *to hand* over every penny of profit that it made.

BP, the world's largest producer of acetic acid, said yesterday that while it was phasing out all use of the patented filter, it was *still* appealing against the decision. *It added that the ruling* would not affect either of its two acid production plants in Hull.

A spokeswoman for BP said: "This is a historical matter. BP Chemicals was using the filters in just a tiny proportion of our acetate production streams many years ago. We have almost completely *phased it out*."

However, the patented filter *is still being used in* one *of its* two acetic acid plants, and is unlikely to be phased out until April. It has been ordered to pay Hoechst *compensation* for the full period until the filter is *completely out of use*.

The argument centres on a filter which purifies acetic acid by removing certain iodides, allowing the cheaper and faster production of vinyl acetate from acetic acids.

Hoechst argues that if BP had not used the filter, which it calls a "guard bed", the company might not have been able to carve such a command of the market.

BP is playing down the importance of the filter, and says *it would be disappointed* if it had to pay its rival as much as $25 million in compensation. The company *hopes to limit its damages* by arguing that the guard bed *was* employed *as an* extra in the production line.

Mr Justice Laddie told BP: "You are going to say that the guard bed is the tail and not the dog, and it will be crucial to your submission that you are right."

He indicated that Hoechst stood to gain more by taking the unusual step of claiming for the *profits* that BP *made* from the acid, rather than the well-*trodden route of applying* for damages.

Industry sources said that if Hoechst did opt for the profits, it could stand to gain compensation of up to $130 million *rather than the* $50 *million to* $100 million range expected at present.

As BP sold most of the refined acid to its subsidiaries, Hoechst could claim even more money if the court agreed to evaluate the acid on what BP could have sold it for in the market rather than its in-house rate.

BP has now been instructed to hand over details of how *much* acid *was produced in* the two plants over the six *years, how much it was sold* for and to whom.

This is the second time that BP has lost the case against Hoechst. Three years ago, it appeared in court in America *charged with infringing* the patent on the same filter in the same process. It was found liable, and agreed to damages of $10 *million. It* also *decided* to appeal then, but the appeal was rejected.

The two companies will meet in the High Court again next month, when Hoechst will say whether it has decided to opt for the court deciding the amount of damages or to *take a risk on the profits*. The final damages payout is not *expected to come through* until the summer.

Hoechst Celanese was represented by Taylor Joynson Garrett, the City solicitors. Bird & Bird represented BP.

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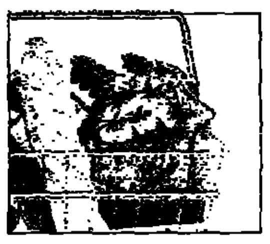

MONEY GUIDE

Weekend Money Guide 4
Tax & Financial Planning

Pearson sells holding in Hong Kong broadcaster

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON, *the media and* entertainment group, *dismantled the key* component *of its* Asian strategy yesterday with the sale of its 10 per cent stake in Television Broadcasts, Hong Kong's leading broadcaster, for £111.1 million.

Pearson acquired the TVB *interest only two years ago*, paying £103.6 million. Greg Dyke, head of Pearson Television, said: "Our original plan was to use it to expand our investments in Asia."

TVB and Pearson made only a little progress together. Their biggest accomplishment was *creating a satellite TV joint* venture in India, called Home TV. The venture will not be affected by Pearson's withdrawal from TVB. Pearson said it would pursue other opportunities in Asia, but did not provide details.

The TVB stake was sold to *Shaw Brothers*, a *cinema* and entertainment group in Hong Kong which owns the world's largest library of Chinese *films*. *Shaw already owned* 23.5 per cent of TVB.

Pearson received £3.5 million in dividends over two years from the TVB investment, but they did not cover the cost of capital. The sale proceeds will help to cut debt.

The TVB sale appears to be *part of Pearson's efforts* to focus the group, eliminating peripheral and non-control investments. Majorie Scardino, the new chief executive, is expected to announce a series of disposals over the next few years. Analysts said they could include Pearson's remaining 4.3 *per cent stake in* BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, the half stake in the *Lazards* investment house and perhaps some newsletters and magazines.

In the longer term, the City believes that Pearson may sell Pearson Television, which includes Thames TV, Select TV, Grundy and FT Television. Mr Dyke would not comment on *speculation that he would* like to purchase the division in a management *buyout*. He said he had not discussed the idea with Ms Scardino.

In a separate development, Pearson said it would provide more details about its investigation into Penguin's accounting on March 17, when its annual results are released. Pearson *dismissed an employee* in Penguin's New Jersey office this month for apparently giving unauthorised discounts to book retailers. Pearson is taking a charge of up to £100 million to cover what it describes as the improper accounting.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK INDICES

FTSE 100	4336.8	(-19.3)
Yield	3.63%	
FTSE All share	2115.45	(-7.3)
Nikkei	19034.54	(-17.17)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6912.76	(-16.62)*
S&P Composite	801.67	(-1.13)*

[illegible] RATES

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	99$\frac{27}{32}$*	(99$\frac{27}{32}$)
Yield	6.54%*	(6.65%)

[illegible]

3-mth Interbank	6$\frac{5}{16}$%	(6$\frac{5}{16}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	113$\frac{1}{16}$	(113⅛)

[illegible]

New York:		
$	1.6185*	(1.6125)
London:		
$	1.6192	(1.6114)
DM	2.7252	(2.7226)
FFr	9.2025	(9.1966)
SFr	2.3738	(2.3881)
Yen	198.84	(198.32)
£ Index	97.2	(97.3)

[illegible]

London:		
DM	1.6830*	(1.6863)
FFr	5.7040*	(5.6895)
SFr	1.4715*	(1.4768)
Yen	123.26*	(122.55)
$ Index	103.8	(103.8)

Tokyo close Yen 122.83

[illegible]

Brent 15-day (May)	$19.85	($19.80)

[illegible]

London close	$353.75	($346.35)

* denotes midday trading price

JAMES MORGAN

Philippe Bourguignon, chairman and chief executive of Euro Disney who steered the company through its deep financial crisis, is leaving for a post at Club Mediterranée. Gilles Pelisson, president and CEO, will take on the role

Auditor pays ADT £50m to settle dispute

By Gavin Lumsden

BDO Binder Hamlyn, the former accountancy partnership of Binder Hamlyn, has agreed to end a seven-year battle and pay nearly $86 million (£50 million) in an out-of-court settlement with ADT, the American electronic security provider.

This is almost half the amount the firm was ordered to pay in damages to ADT by the High Court in December 1995 and thereby removes the threat of £34 million personal liability faced by 150 former partners.

The firm said the settlement, which consists of a $77.5 million immediate payment, with $8.6 million deferred, fell within its insurance cover. It has withdrawn an appeal scheduled for later this year.

John Newton, a Binder Hamlyn spokesman, expressed *mixed feelings about* the settlement but added: "The *costs and uncertainty of the* outcome of litigation have influenced us in taking this essentially commercial decision. We firmly believe the original judgment was unsound and we are aware that *there was* considerable professional interest in following the *progress of our appeal* hearing. Nevertheless, this settlement removes uncertainty from our partners and draws a line under the financial and time costs of the case."

The dispute centred on the BDO Binder Hamlyn's auditing of Britannia Security Group in 1989, a US firm that ADT bought for £105 million *in* 1990. After the acquisition ADT discovered profits had *been hugely inflated and that* the company's real value was £40 million. ADT's suit against BDO Binder Hamlyn shocked the accountancy world as the BDO Binder Hamlyn had used another firm to audit the security services side of the business. ADT's case also relied on a verbal confirmation of Britan*nia's accounts given* by Martin Bishop, a partner in the *accountants'* New York office.

Gerry Acher, chairman of the audit faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, England and Wales, called on the Government to reform liability laws so that professional advisers will not face disproportionate claims.

BDO Binder Hamlyn subsequently formed a new partnership, which joined Arthur Andersen Worldwide in 1994. The existing partnership is now Binder Hamlyn.

Shield soars despite statement

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

SHARES in Shield Diagnostics leapt another £1.10 to £5.26 yesterday *in spite of publication* of a carefully worded statement intended to damp down speculation.

Shield, whose shares were *150p at the* start of the month, is working on a test that could replace cholesterol *screening*. The *statement* included a letter from George Miller of the *Medical* Research Council Wolfson Centre of Preventive Medicine in *London who is* coordinating a trial of 15 different markers of heart disease.

One of these is AFT, made by Shield, which was shown in a *pilot study to* hold some promise and this appeared to be confirmed by a *preliminary* analysis of results.

Rabbatts resigns from Centrica

By Eric Reguly

HEATHER RABBATTS, believed to be Britain's best paid town hall chief, yesterday resigned as non-executive director of Centrica, which demerged *from British* Gas earlier this week.

Ms *Rabbatts*, £115,000-a-year chief executive of Lambeth council, said: "It was a *matter of personal regret*" that she had submitted her resignation.

Pressure from Tory and Liberal Democrat councillors, *who said she should devote* all of her time to fixing *Lambeth's affairs*, was behind her decision to resign. The Lambeth position *she took* two years ago is known as "the worst job in local government." Ms Rabbatts, 41, a former barrister, argued that joining the Centrica board would not affect her commitment to Lambeth. In an effort to gain support, she even offered to donate her £20,000 a year Centrica salary to the mayor's charity.

Roy *Gardner, Centrica's* chief executive, recruited Ms Rabbatts to help repair Centrica's reputation for shoddy service. *She was approached by Centrica in* December and would have attended her first board meeting this week. Mr Gardner said: "I am very sorry that Ms Rabbatts has had to resign her post."

Her departure leaves Patricia Mann, a vice-president of J Walter Thompson, the advertising agency, as the only female director of Centrica.

NatWest seeks £10m from Tesco

By Marianne Curphey

NATWEST is believed to be seeking up to £10 million compensation from Tesco after the supermarket group ditched a five-year contract with the bank and signed a new deal with Royal Bank of *Scotland*.

Last week Tesco said it was linking with RBS to provide financial services. NatWest had provided Tesco's Clubcard Plus debit card *since last June*.

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, Tesco chairman, resigned from the board of NatWest after the new deal with RBS was confirmed. David Malpas retired as man*aging director of* Tesco yesterday after nearly 30 years with the company. He is succeeded by Terry Leahy, who becomes chief executive.

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Hanson votes for split

Hanson shareholders yesterday voted overwhelmingly for the demerger of Energy Group. Its shares will trade separately in London and New York from Monday.

The split will give shareholders one Energy share for every ten Hanson shares held. On the so-called grey market in London yesterday Energy shares fell 6½p to 520p.

Talks accord

Britain and America reported progress in talks over the past three days toward a new free-market "open skies" aviation agreement. A State Department negotiator said there was progress "toward an agreed text for a new bilateral accord".

Share placing

Bakyrchik Gold raised £7.1 million via a share placing in London yesterday. The new shares were placed at 200p each and represent about 9.9 per cent of existing capital. After the placing Indochina Goldfields, a Canadian company, will own 27.9 per cent of Bakyrchik.

Stordata up

Stordata Solutions, the car security and data storage company, earned pre-tax profits of £1.5 million in the year to November 30, compared with losses of £473,000 in the previous year. Earnings were 1.25p a share (1.27p loss). A final dividend of 0.3p a share makes a total of 0.5p (nil).

Allied higher

Allied Leisure, the ten-pin bowling company, reported pre-tax profits of £1.4 milliom for the six months to December 31, up from £515,000 previously. Earnings rose to 1.07p a share from 0.63p. The interim dividend is 0.33p a share (nil). Ken Scobie, chairman, said trading "continues to be patchy." The shares fell 6p to 46p.

Nord Anglia Education, the education services provider whose chairman is Kevin McNeany, will be valued at £18 million when its shares begin trading on the stock market next week. Nord will raise £9.69 million via a share placing at 140p

Christian Salvesen rebels seek support in the City

By Sarah Cunningham

DISSIDENT Christian Salvesen shareholders who oppose the demerger of the company's Aggreko equipment hire subsidiary, are seeking the support of institutional investors for their campaign against the board.

John Grant, formerly finance director of LucasVarity, who was recruited by the dissidents to lead their fight, will take the battle to the City next week, meeting institutions before a shareholders meeting on March 3.

Shareholders are to vote on a proposed special 34p foreign income dividend worth a total of £100 million. They have already been paid an enhanced dividend of £50 million. In the second half of the year, they will be asked to vote on spinning off Aggreko, the equipment hire business. Salvesen's board, which last year turned down a bid approach by Hays, the logistics company, unveiled details of the proposed FID yesterday. It will be combined with a share consolidation to have the same effect as a share buyback.

The rebels, including Sir Gerald Elliot, a former chairman and a member of the Salvesen family, want the proposal thrown out and to replace Chris Masters, the chief executive, with Mr Grant. Sir Gerald, who has a 2 per cent stake, claims to have the support of shareholders — all family members — with about 10 per cent of the capital. The family controls 38 per cent of the group.

Mr Grant said the group should be able to deliver value through growth. "Just giving money back to shareholders is defeatist," he said.

Tempus, page 30

Ex-Swithland directors jailed

TWO former directors of a Leicestershire car dealership were yesterday sent to prison for a multimillion-pound fraud after a joint investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, Leicester fraud squad and Customs and Excise (Robert Miller writes).

John Hayes, founder and chairman of the Swithland Group, received a five-year sentence and was disqualified from acting as a company director for ten years.

David Sharratt, 51, Swithland finance director, received a three-and-a-half year sentence and was barred as a company director for seven years. Sentencing at Oxford Crown Court, Judge Richard May said: "Those who loaned money in reliance on the figures you gave lost it all or a great deal of it. This strikes at the heart of the trust on which commerce must depend."

West Ham plans £50m flotation in the summer

By Jason Nissé

WEST HAM United, the struggling Premiership club, is to float in the summer with a market value of at least £50 million after raising £1.6 million in a private share placing yesterday.

Terence Brown, chairman, said the money will be used to complete the payments on the £8.5 million purchase of strikers John Hartson and Paul Kitson. The club may raise tors before it floats. West Ham has appointed Nomura, the investment bank, to advise on the float.

The executors of the estate of the late Matthew Harding are preparing to place part of their 25 per cent stake in Chelsea Village, owners of Chelsea, it emerged yesterday. The holding, which cost just £15 million, is now worth more than £60 million.

Chelsea recorded a pre-tax loss of £404,000 in the six months to 31 December. Loss per share was 0.27p. Despite spending £12.5 million on players in the period and receiving only £6 million back, Chelsea's accounting allowed it to record a £31,000 profit on player trading.

The club said its fund raising to pay for the redevelopment of its ground at Stamford Bridge was nearly completed.

Chelsea has raised £26.3 million from share placings and has placed another nine million shares, which were yesterday priced at 161½p, up 6½p.

The consortium, led by Albert Scardino, husband of Pearson's chief executive, bidding for Nottingham Forest yesterday raised its offer to £19 million. This matches the bid by the group led by Nigel Wray, chairman of Burford. Forest shareholders will decide on the bids at an extraordinary meeting on Monday night.

Wimpey Homes is buying Roker Park, the home of Sunderland Football Club since 1898, for £1.3 million. Sunderland move to a new 42,000-seat stadium in the summer.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GDP growth rate revised up to 2.7%

UK ECONOMIC growth in the fourth quarter of last year was yesterday confirmed at 0.8 per cent although minor revisions to back data lifted the year-on-year growth rate of gross domestic product to 2.7 per cent from the 2.6 per cent reported in provisional figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Non-oil GDP figures were unrevised, with growth of 0.7 per cent in the quarter and 2.5 per cent year on year. The figures showed consumer spending remained the main engine for growth, rising 0.9 per cent in the quarter. Investment remained disappointing, with growth of only 0.2 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Hickson to reduce debt

HICKSON International, the speciality chemicals company that has spent a year in heavy restructuring, plans a major disposal aimed at reducing further its debt burden. Hickson reported a loss before tax of £9.2 million, which included a goodwill write-off following the sale of Hickson Manro. Pre-tax profit before exceptional items was £7.8 million (£5.9 million) and underlying operating profit improved by £8 million to £14 million. Borrowings fell to £56 million from £82 million. **Tempus, page 30**

On track for ScotRail

THE Government's rail privatisation programme remained on track when a potential delay was averted in Scotland. The Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority voted unanimously to endorse the choice of National Express as preferred bidder for ScotRail. The authority, comprising 12 councils in western Scotland, is ScotRail's biggest single customer and stipulates timetables and services in its area. The endorsement follows three years of negotiations involving rail regulators.

UBS takes a loss

UBS, Switzerland's largest bank, had a loss of SFr348 million (£145 million) in 1996 after a SFr3 billion charge against bad debts and restructuring costs of SFr120 million. In the previous year profits were SFr1.67 billion. Personnel expenses last year rose by 17 per cent due "in large part to performance and profit-related bonuses," said the bank. The dividend is unchanged at SFr32 a share. Mathis Cabiallavetta, chief executive, said UBS hoped for a net profit this year of more than SFr2 billion. **Tempus, page 30**

Aer Rianta diversifies

THE threatened closure of duty-free shops within the EU by mid-1999 has prompted Aer Rianta, the state-owned airport authority in the Irish Republic, to join NatWest Ventures in a 40 per cent stake in Birmingham International Airport for Ir£43 million. Aer Rianta is believed to have paid Ir£13 million for a 25 per cent stake. The restructuring deal paves the way for a Ir£260 million investment programme at the airport. Last year half of Aer Rianta's profits, around Ir£18 million, was from duty-free shops.

Grafton profits build

STRONG growth in the Irish construction sector helped to lift pre-tax profits at Grafton, the building materials group based in Dublin, by 41 per cent to Ir£15.5 million in 1996. Turnover rose 25 per cent to Ir£192 million. Earnings rose 44 per cent to Ir82.7p a share. All Grafton's operations in the Republic recorded double-digit growth in turnover. In the UK, a string of small acquisitions during the year in England helped to lift turnover 50 per cent to Ir£50 million. A final dividend of 11p a share lifts the total 40 per cent to 17.5p.

Shell joint venture slips

SHOWA SHELL SEKIYU, the Japanese oil refining company that is 50 per cent owned by Royal Dutch/Shell, suffered a 36.2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to 12.18 billion yen in 1996. The company was adversely affected by poor retail prices for oil products and strong crude prices. In yen-based terms the price of Dubai crude, a Middle Eastern crude used as a benchmark in Asia, rose 41.4 per cent in 1996 because of strong crude prices and the yen's depreciation against the dollar.

Capita uses placing to fund acquisitions

THE Capita Group, the outsourcing and professional support services provider, will become the UK's largest provider of pensions administration services after the acquisition of Hartshead Solway for a total of £4.75 million (Martin Barrow writes).

Hartshead's clients include more than 100 private and public sector clients. In the year to March 31, 1996, the company earned pre-tax profits of £544,000 on income of £6.6 million.

Capita is also buying the 50 per cent that it does not own of DriveSafe Services from JHP Group for an initial £10 million and up to £5 million related to profits. DriveSafe administers theory tests for learner drivers. Capita is raising £11.85 million through a vendor placing of new shares at 610p each.

Tempus, page 30

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	20.08	18.58
Belgium Fr	58.94	54.64
Canada $	2.303	2.143
Cyprus Cyp£	0.846	0.791
Denmark Kr	10.93	10.13
Finland Mkk	8.70	8.05
France Fr	9.57	8.92
Germany Dm	2.87	2.66
Greece Dr	444	418
Hong Kong $	13.13	12.13
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.69	5.04
Italy Lira	2813	2638
Japan Yen	212.20	196.20
Malta	0.655	0.600
Netherlds Gld	3.197	2.967
New Zealand $	2.47	2.25
Norway Kr	11.44	10.84
Portugal Esc	283.50	265.00
S Africa Rd	7.83	7.03
Spain Pta	241.00	224.00
Sweden Kr	12.59	11.79
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.32
Turkey Lira	203400	189400
USA $	1.712	1.582

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Great train robbery?

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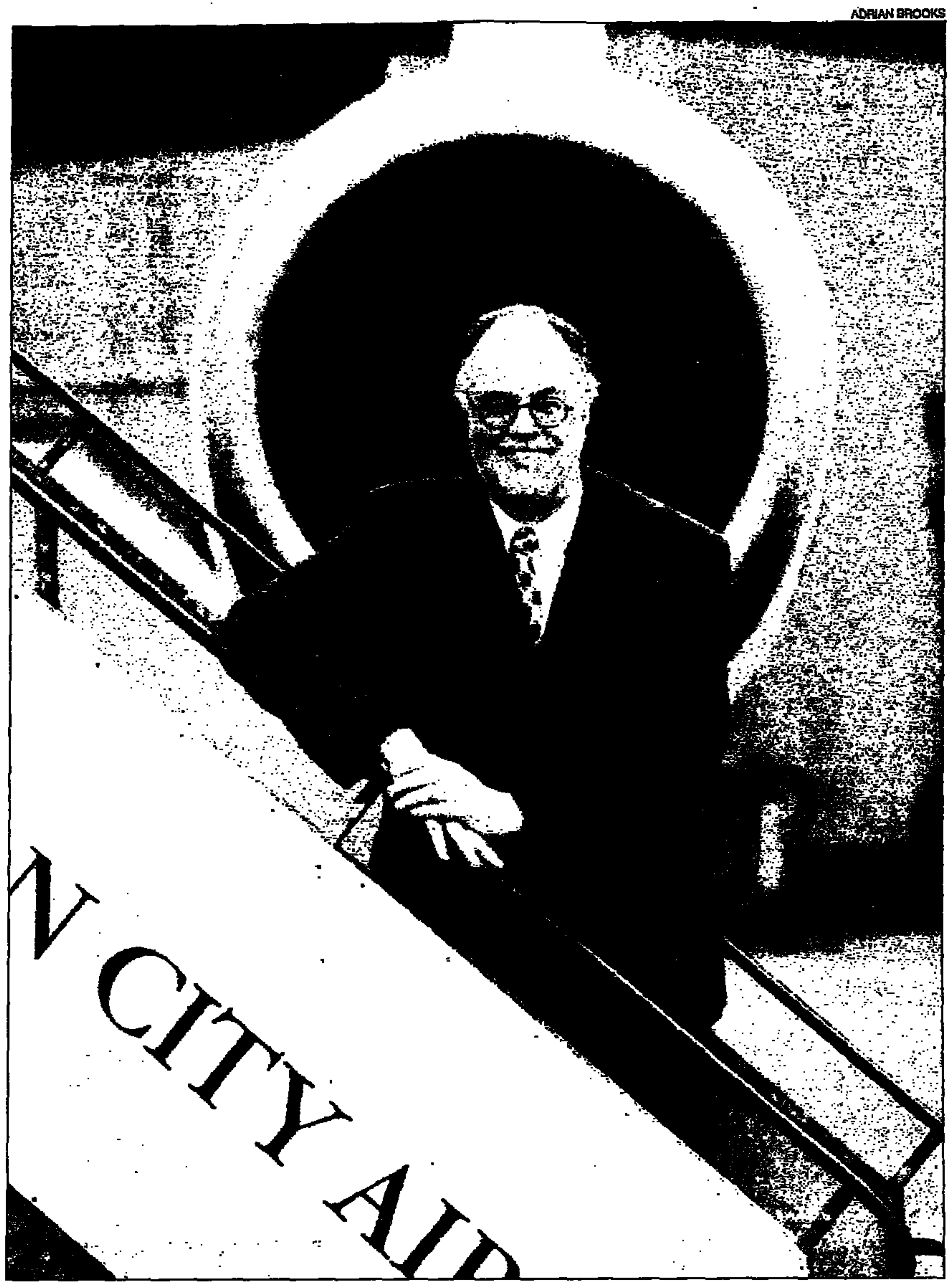
A WORKING WEEK FOR: RICHARD GOODING

Airport chief takes off in the land of dragons

Jon Ashworth finds out how a white elephant came to fly and how an underground link is expected to help it to soar

ADRIAN BROOKS



Richard Gooding says London City airport is not yet hugely profitable, but it is no longer losing "disgusting sums"

LONDON City airport *is heading for* smoother skies. New ownership has brought a touch of calm to this bleak outpost in London's Docklands. More than a million passengers will pass through its *gates this year, and* the best is yet to come. The opening of the Jubilee Line extension will, it is claimed, place *London City just 18 minutes'* ride from Westminster.

All this provides the perfect cue for Richard Gooding, who joined as managing director in August with a brief to steer London City through its new phase. He is set to embark on a programme of refurbishment that will transform the entire package. *The terminal building and lounges* will be spruced up and the car park resurfaced. There are plans to link the term*inal with a* 200-bed, four-star hotel, allowing businessmen to check out and board their flights with a minimum of fuss.

The changes bear the mark of Dermot Desmond, a Dublin businessman who is fast building a *diverse portfolio of* investments. His interests include Celtic Football Club, aircraft leasing, property *and hotels. He purchased* Sandy Lane in Barbados for £38 million last year. Desmond paid £23.5 million for London City in October 1995, ending a disastrous run for John Mowlem, the construction group that built the airport.

London City opened in 1987, just before the collapse in property values that was to *push Canary* Wharf over the brink. Mowlem could only watch in horror as millions of pounds seeped away into the Docklands marshes. The jinx extended to airlines such as City Link, which pulled out in 1991 after running up a reputed £10 million in costs. Another carrier, Brymon, withdrew in 1993, and Conti-Flug went one better — it went bust.

The turning point came in early 1992, when London City's runway was extended to accommodate aircraft such as the BAe 146 "whisper jet", which has a range *of 1,000 miles, bringing most leading* European destinations within reach. By the end of the year, passenger numbers had risen from a low of 150,000 to about 185,000. The opening of the Limehouse Link significantly improved access to the City and central London.

Desmond, who passes through London City at least once a week, has brought the financial stability that the airport needs. Gooding says: "He's not an asset stripper. *He's not that sort of investor at all. He is* interested in businesses where he can *come in at a good value-for-money price,* and grow and enhance those businesses so that they become more valuable."

Desmond has timed his entry well. The airport will soon have a raft of new neighbours; among them Norton Healthcare, a US company that is building its European regional headquarters on the far side of the runway. A new business park is being launched, and there are plans — as yet unfinalised — to open London's biggest exhibition and conference centre. Wimpey Homes is building 777 homes around the *Royal Docks. Deloitte & Touche* is assessing the feasibility of building a £90 million national aquarium.

Such developments can only spur passenger numbers, which hit 727,601 in 1996 and should comfortably exceed a million this year. Problems of access have been the main obstacle in the past — highlighted by controversial claims that the airport was only 20 minutes by car from the West End. After complaints *the* boast was amended to "less than 30 minutes".

Many continue to view Docklands as *an impenetrable wasteland. As Gooding* says: "A lot of people in London think that east of Tower Bridge it says 'There Be Dragons' on the map. It's seen as a lot of derelict warehouses, lots of narrow cobbled streets, and the legacy of some of the more famous criminals that operated in the area."

The opening of the Jubilee Line extension, scheduled for March 1998, is expected to make all the difference. Gooding *says: "Westminster will be 18 minutes* away. You'll be able to travel door-to-door between here and the Ritz in under 30 minutes. *Suddenly*, we're going to be nearer than any other airport." Shuttle buses will cover the half mile between the airport and Canning Town station.

Gooding is well suited to this type of *project. He joined from London Luton* airport, which was turned round under his stewardship. In his five years there, Luton branched out from cheap holiday charter flights to include budget European services, using airlines such as Debonair. The airport grew into a popular port of call for executive jets, attracted by the ability to fly in at any time of day or night.

> ❛ In some ways, that congestion factor at Heathrow is our biggest strength ❜

Gooding is now training his sights on a *more elusive quarry — the upmarket,* time-conscious, business traveller. The intention is to increase the number of destinations — currently 20, served by 13 airlines — to take in all the leading business centres in Europe. Places such as Amsterdam, Berne, Frankfurt, Dublin, Stockholm and Milan currently fall within *the net, served by* carriers such as Air UK and CityJet. Those still to be snared include Copenhagen, Hamburg, Madrid and Barcelona. UK destinations yet to be served include Glasgow, Manchester and Belfast.

London City is becoming a viable alternative to Heathrow for executives within the appropriate catchment area. Those who live in central London, and around the eastern side of the M25, will find it appropriate to their needs. It certainly has the edge on Heathrow in *swiftness of service. Passengers can turn* up ten minutes before departure, and speed on their way, fog and other natural hazards permitting. As Gooding says: "At Heathrow, you can walk for 20 minutes before you've even got into the main terminal, never mind the traumas of parking.

"Heathrow *is* a super airport, because it has such a choice of flights and such high frequencies. All the airlines in the world want to be there, and it's natural that passengers will want to be where most of the well-known airlines are. But I think it is getting zoo-like. In some ways, that congestion *factor at Heathrow is our* biggest strength."

In many ways, Gooding's goals are not particularly ambitious. *London City deals* with 20,000 passengers a week; doubling the numbers would threaten congestion and delays — all the things it is seeking to avoid. Only about 15 per cent of air travellers in London and the South East fall into the premium traveller bracket. Gooding will be happy to capture about 1½ per cent *of that. As he says: "The aviation business* isn't just about volume of passengers. It's about yield: how much can you earn from each of these passengers?"

The refurbishment is an important part of the equation. "Much of people's perceptions of the business are of what it looks like. Is it clean and tidy? Does it look bright and polished? Or is it starting to look slightly tarnished? These make a real impression on people." The terminal and *lounges are a prime focus. "The airport* building is now ten years old. You're starting to see the cracks."

Gooding is keen to smarten up the airport car park, putting in a covered walkway and improving security. Most of the interest is likely to centre on the hotel scheme — a rare enough spectacle in *amenity-starved Docklands. He foresees* a complex that will blend in with the terminal and straddle the airport drop-off zone. "A lot of people like to use the facilities of a hotel, if even for a few hours. You could check out of the hotel and check in for your flight all in the same transaction. You just walk through and *get on to the aeroplane.*"

Having Desmond on the scene has helped to make such initiatives possible. "While we're not hugely profitable, we're no longer losing the disgusting sums of money that were being lost in earlier years. We can start to turn our eyes to the sort of issues which would have been seen *as bit more frivolous in years before.*"

The promise of increased jobs can only go down well in a borough with higher than average unemployment. London City provides work for 600 people, subcontractors and other staff included. "Ten years ago, here in the Royal Docks, not one of those jobs existed. There's never been a penny of public money in the airport, yet from nothing, 600 well-paid permanent jobs have been created. In terms of economic regeneration, it's something we have to be proud of.

"While *we need highly skilled jobs at* one end of the spectrum, we also want cooks, and gardeners, and waiters, and waitresses, and retail people, and baggage handlers and firemen. The whole panoply of what used to be called working-class jobs. That's what airports are good at providing."

It all bodes well. "Having gone from a small, quiet, backwater airport which was seen by many as a white elephant, the original rationale behind developing an inner-city airport in London's Docklands has come to fruition. We're now being seen by the experienced business traveller as a genuine alternative to Heathrow for short-haul *flights to and from Europe.*"

HIDDEN ASSETS

A dram of comfort in an exotic environment

Joanna Pitman discovers the Victorian garden at the Glen Grant distillery

Beside the clear waters of the Back Burn, and carefully hidden in a leafy corner, is a turf-roofed Dram Hut and whisky safe. The Victorian garden attached to the Glen Grant distillery at Rothes on Spey, Aberlour, has just been restored from bedraggled wilderness to idealised Scottish Highland landscape by its owners, the Chivas and Glenlivet Group.

The garden was designed by Major James Grant when he inherited the Glen Grant Pure Malt Scotch Whisky business in 1872. Its restoration has been shortlisted for this year's Civic Trust Landscape Award.

And whisky lovers will be tantalised by the reports of a rediscovery of the Dram Hut, Major Grant's private *whisky safe that held stocks* of the best pure malt. This has been re-equipped and made ready, one imagines, for directors of the *group* to indulge in a liquid equivalent of the Easter egg hunt. (Hints on its location may be *divulged on special request*).

The garden restoration, carried out by a team of specialists led by Karen Ellington and with advice from the Scottish Conservation Projects Trust, has also provided a fascinating picture of Scottish horticultural history.

Major Grant was a pioneering businessman, a renowned sportsman and an *intrepid traveller* who undertook every project on a grand scale. He chose the 27-acre site taking advantage of the *landscape's natural features* and dramatic setting and created rustic bridges across the burn and waterside paths to meander through the orchards and wooded glades.

An army of gardeners *cleared the lower reaches of* the glen and laid stone and pottery drains. Conservatories were built to house his collection of orchids and hothouse fruits. Special visitors were treated to melons, peaches and grapes before enjoying a glass of Glen *Grant from the safe with* cold water from the burn.

In its heyday the garden *fully employed* 11 gardeners, but after Major Grant's death, it fell into decline. Harsh winters and the storm of 1953 took their toll.

The restorers spent three full seasons bringing the garden back to life with the help of a *few photographs* from the turn of the century. They traced the original winding pathways, removed fallen timber, seeded trees, rebuilt walls, restored bridges and repaired ponds and pathways. And as they cleared the encroaching undergrowth, beautiful mature orchards were discovered in which most of the cherry and apple trees had survived.

Banks of rhododendrons and native ferns had also survived as well as specimens of early hybrids. The ornamental areas have been replanted with species from America, China and the Himalayas according to period garden catalogues. And the water *features, a passion of* Victorian gardeners, have been revived, the lily pond being relined using the traditional method of clay puddling and the bog garden replanted with iris and lilac on its banks.

Exotic plants from distant parts were highly fashionable in the late 19th century and determined specimen collectors developed special cases to carry back samples.

Major Grant created garden environments to accommodate a wide variety of exotica, including a large rhubarb-like marshland plant from Brazil, samples of Himalayan birch and the Chinese primula.

The restoration of the Glen Grant garden to its idealised Highland landscape has provided an extraordinary *living museum* of Scotland's late 19th-century gardening heritage. And visitors will no doubt appreciate its year-round glories all the more if they are fortunate enough to discover the hidden Dram Hut.

Wilderness tamed: the restored garden of James Grant

MARTIN·CURRIE

A red rag
to a bull market?

The Chinese flag will soon replace the Union Jack in Hong Kong. But what will happen to the economic complexion of the colony? How will companies fare after the change-over? Will investors be seeing red? Martin Currie think not.

After all, Hong Kong companies have been investing in China for many years. And Chinese companies – the 'red chips' – are already listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

But whatever happens – in South East Asia or elsewhere in the world – you can be sure that Martin Currie will be applying their long-established international investment skills to full advantage. (So no change there.)

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Glaxo and Zeneca move in opposite directions

Shares in Railtrack rose 23½p on institutional buying

THE sight of shares in **Glaxo Wellcome** and **Zeneca**, two of Britain's biggest drug manufacturers, travelling in opposite directions set tongues wagging in the Square Mile.

Glaxo Wellcome ended the day 21p lower at £10.18½, after briefly touching £10.12½, *on turnover of more than six million shares.* At the same time, shares of Zeneca were heading north with a leap of 78p to a new all-time high of £18.95½.

At this level Zeneca carries a price tag of £17.2 billion, but remains more than half the size of Glaxo Wellcome, capitalised at *almost* £37 *billion.*

Zeneca has been the subject of intense takeover talk ever since it was demerged from ICI in 1993. Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, was the name on everyone's lips a few weeks ago and in the past it has also been linked with Pfizer in the US.

A bid by Glaxo Wellcome is *usually dismissed by brokers on regulatory grounds. Most of them say such a move would be immediately* referred, but they also said that when Glaxo bid £10 billion for Wellcome in 1994.

Last night there were whispers about a possible link-up between the two sides. But as one market-maker commented: "These sort of price movements usually attract the attention of the Takeover *Panel*".

The rest of the equity market had the look of the day after the night before about it. Indeed, a lot of analysts failed to make it to their desks after the annual Society of Investment Analysts' dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel.

Nevertheless, the FT-SE 100 index was able to halve an earlier fall of almost 44 points prompted by the sharp fall in the Dow Jones average the previous evening. *The expiry of the March options passed off without event.*

The index closed 19.3 down at 4,336.8, a rise of 5.1 on the week. Turnover reflected the reduced attendance levels, with just 780 million shares traded.

Redland was a late casualty, falling 8½p to 338½p after losing its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies to **Energy Group**, which demerges from **Hanson** on Monday. Trading on the grey *market, ahead of the start of official dealings on Monday,* Energy slipped 1½p to 525p. Hanson was 1¼p down at 87½p, while the rump of the *business, made up of building* products, was *6p down* at 287½p.

BOC Group sported a rise of 34½p at 994p cheered by positive comments from several brokers. NatWest Securities has raised its forecast after further consideration of the figures. The group is now looking for pre-tax profits of £445 million for the current year against £444.9 million and is urging clients to add to their holdings.

GKN enjoyed a much needed rally with the price firming 12p to 947½p. There are indications that the American judge in the Meineke franchi*sees trial may cut the damages award by around one third.*

The banks were mixed ahead of next week's clutch of trading results. Reporting are **Standard Chartered**, *16p off* at 793p, **National Westminster**, *1½p lower* at 812p, and **Abbey National**, 6½p cheaper at 777p.

Shield Diagnostics rounded off a profitable week for shareholders with another leap of 113p to close at a new peak of 529½p. It stretches the gain during the past five days to 157½p. This time it has been boosted by a positive report about its AFT system for detecting heart disease in the early stages. The Medical Research Council said the presence of AFT in the bloodstream provided a reliable indicator of cardiovascular risk. *Earlier this week Shield signed up a research agreement with Abbot Laboratories, providing it with facilities* and expertise.

Proteus International also finished the week on a high note with a rise of 17p at a new high of 74½p as investors continued to reflect on prospects for its process for diag*nosing* BSE in cattle. Some estimate the European *market, alone,* could be worth £10 million a year.

Institutional investors continued to chase **Railtrack** to new heights with a rise of 23½p to 446p. Earlier this week the group committed itself to spending £4 billion a year on the rail network and *promised to reduce the delay* in its current £750 million capital expenditure programme.

Chelsea Village, owner of the west London Premiership side, rose 6½p to 161½p in spite of plunging into the red during the first six months. The final result exceeded expectations and was achieved *despite crowd capacity being sharply reduced due to construction of a new stand.*

Ashurst Technology was 20p better at 80p with the market continuing to assess prospects after its link-up with Easton Sports in the US to make baseball and softball bats.

Hopes that Granada will use the proceeds from the sale of its Welcome Break chain of *service stations to bid for the remainder of* **Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television** lifted the latter 42½p to £12.15. Granada already owns 25 per cent of Yorkshire.

First Call rose 2¼p to 11p on news it was in talks which could lead to it making a significant acquisition. The announcement was prompted by the rise in the share price.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Unimpressed with the revised fourth-quarter gross domestic product, bond prices were dragged lower along *with US Treasury bonds.*

Investors seemed unwilling to test the market by opening fresh positions ahead of next week's auction.

The March series of the long gilt finished £$^{3}/_{16}$ lower at £113$^{3}/_{16}$, as almost 50,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £$^{5}/_{16}$ at £107, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £104$^{9}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Share trading was volatile in morning *trade as "double-witching" expirations took their toll on the* Dow Jones industrial average. *By midday* it was 16.62 points lower at 6,912.76.

Orange slipped ½p to 209½p. There is talk that British Aerospace may be close to selling part of its holding. But NatWest Securities, the broker, is quick to dismiss *claims that the sale would create* a stock overhang and *depress the price. It says any share weakness should be seen as an opportunity to buy.*

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Premium Underwriting	171p	+14p	Agreed bid from Wellington
Capital Corporation	194p	+23p	London Clubs bids
Low & Bonar	438½p	+40½p	Bumper profits news
Advanced Power	48p	-32p	Profits warning
London Forfaiting	402p	+49p	Better than expected profits news
Proteus International	74½p	+39½p	BSE diagnosis given go ahead
Shield Diagnostics	529½p	+157½p	Research agreement
Railtrack	446p	+63p	£16 billion expenditure plan
BOC Group	994p	+45½p	Goldman Sachs says "buy"

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6912.76 (-16.62)
S&P Composite	801.67 (-1.13)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	19034.54 (-17.17)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	13444.85 (+33.52)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	728.92 (-4.79)

Sydney:

AO	2475.3 (-1.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3184.09 (-11.94)

Singapore:

Straits	2241.38 (-10.70)

Brussels:

General	11682.63 (-51.27)

Paris:

CAC-40	2562.84 (-12.40)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	942.80 (-1.60)

London:

FT 30	2864.5 (-10.0)
FT 100	4336.8 (-19.3)
FTSE Mid 250	4631.0 (-2.5)
FTSE 350	2142.8 (-7.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2142.72 (-5.33)
FT All-Share	2115.45 (-7.3)
FT Non Financials	2159.57 (-6.73)
FT Fixed Interest	120.13 (+0.09)
FT Govt Secs	96.64 (+0.13)
Bargains	50498
SEAQ Volume	780.6m
US$	1.6191 (-0.0022)
German Mark	2.7253 (-0.0095)
Exchange Index	97.2 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3962
£:SDR	1.1675
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

C&B Publishing	175	...
Calidore Group	3¼	...
Calidore Warrants	1¼	...
Centrica (75½)	68½	- 1¼
First Russian Wrts II	492½	+ 37½
GB Railways	187½	- 5
Infobank Intl	143	- 1
J Lewis Hungerford	4	...
PSD (A/L)	286	- 2½
Prelude Tst	118½	...
Prelude Warrants	41½	...
Tea Plantations Inv	102	...
Tea Plantations Wts	30½	...
Technoplast	122½	...
Zicor Mining	24½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Finelist n/p (320)	42½	- 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Arjo Wiggins	161p (+9½p)
Eclipse Blinds	140½p (+8p)
Brewin Dolphin	201½p (+10½p)
Vendome	517½p (+20½p)
Cairn Energy	575½p (+20½p)
BOC	994p (+34½p)
BBA	351½p (+10p)
Millennium & Cop	391p (+11p)
HTV Group	349p (+9½p)
Reckitt Colm	795p (+17p)
Scot & New	675p (+10p)
GKN	947½p (+12p)
RTZ	933½p (+11½p)

FALLS:

RGC	250p (-14½p)
DCS Group	291½p (-11p)
Clyde Blowers	348½p (-13p)
Volex	420p (-15p)
Parity	468p (-16p)
Gen Accident	819p (-25p)
DFS Furniture	580p (-16½p)
Securicor	322½p (-9p)
Smithkline	922p (-23p)
Critchley	725p (-18p)
AEA Tech	482p (-10p)
Stand Chart	793p (-16p)
Royal Bk Scot	618½p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

Mountainous costs

THERE was a time when shy foreign depositors would meekly accept nil or even negative interest on their money just for the privilege of a Swiss franc account. Today, flight capital has a choice of homes, asset management is a competitive business and Swiss bankers have to work for a living.

UBS is learning, but very slowly. Six years of Swiss recession finally forced the bank to close branches, sack staff and erect huge bad *debt provisions. Taking the pain in advance will shrink the balance sheet and improve next year's income account,* thus providing a *useful boost to UBS's slim return on capital of 7 per cent.*

But this is mere tinkering — a target return of 12 per cent compares badly with British or US competitors that earn returns double that rate. Such big money earning meagre returns suggests UBS might take a leaf from Anglo-American banks and buy back its shares, but the Swiss have a problem.

UBS has set its heart on securities and *corporate* finance, spending heavily to buy in *expensive* bodies in New York and London. *Growth* in overseas staff numbers outweighed the headcount attrition in Switzerland last year, but capital markets and corporate finance provided the bulk of the profits growth.

Building up overhead in a volatile industry is a high-risk strategy and UBS needs a shield to protect it from a market downturn. Hence its reluctance to part with its capital cushion. With the Swiss economy still lame and its remaining fortunes riding on a frothy world market, UBS investors are *on a hiding to* nothing.

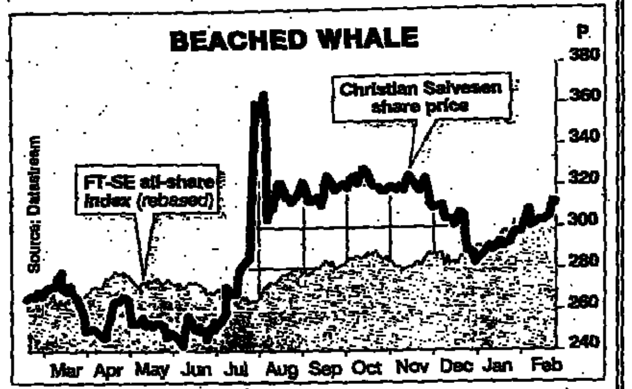
Salvesen

INVESTORS in Christian Salvesen, the company that once made a living from whaling, must feel that they are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

They face a choice between the existing management promise of a fashionable demerger and special dividend payout, or rebel shareholders, led by a former chairman *and a new would-be chief executive.* Both teams promise enhanced value but neither sounds convincing.

Last year, the incumbent management spurned a takeover approach from Hays without consulting shareholders. Their demerger proposal assumes that the value of the profitable Aggreko plant hire business *is being depressed by boring old transport and* logistics. But a sum of *the* parts valuation *suggests there is little in the argument* and the incumbents have no strategy to grow logistics, hence the plan to return capital to shareholders.

The rebels are more bullish, proposing to raise the performance of logistics with acquisitions. But Salvesen is hardly in a strong position to *play the role of industry consolidator.* Meanwhile Hays is waiting in the wings, doubtless hoping that a demerged and depressed Salvesen logistics division would make a more manageable and cheaper morsel. In the circumstances, investors would be better *off selling Salvesen in one piece to Hays at a better price.*



Hickson

AFTER a year of restructuring, Hickson shareholders are not much closer to a proper dividend. Savage cost cutting — halving the staff and reducing the number of operating sites from 38 to 18 — has been acomplished and the operating result has *improved by £8 million.* The *current challenge is to* build *up its growth businesses* — such as PharmaChem, which makes intermediate chemicals for pharmaceutical manufacturers. That means ploughing more resources into investment and Hickson has a big disposal planned, the proceeds of which will repay £25 million of debt.

That sort of price suggests one of Hickson's more profitable businesses in areas such as wood *protection or coatings* could be *on the* block but *replacing* the lost earnings will not be easy. Hickson is spending £20 million per year in its businesses, investment that ought to generate 15 per cent plus returns but the full payback could take more than a year.

In the meantime, current year profits are a bit of a lottery, dependent on the profits forgone from the disposal. Even if Hickson earns £10 million this year, any *dividend will be a token gesture, given the need to build up the core businesses.*

Capita Group

ISSUING shares rated at 40 times earnings to buy businesses valued at 9-10 times earnings is an easy way to boost performance. However, Capita group is no mere acquisition junkie. It is the champion of outsourcing — providing clerical staff to public sector bodies and utili*ties. The company processes forms,* collects council tax, *runs* the finance department, all for a fee cheaper than the cost of running it yourself.

Capita can do it and earn a 9-10 per cent margin by consolidating the operations in 10 business centres around the country and running it more efficiently. That suggests fewer staff and it is no secret that public sector unions are deeply opposed to outsourcing. Capita is targeting local authorities and *NHS where it can run the front of house as well as the huge back offices that have* built up to deal with the NHS internal market.

The question is whether Labour will put a damper on this business, treating it as the ugly sister of privatisation. That seems unlikely, not just because New Labour is stealing every item of Tory clothing it can lay it hands on. The opposition has embraced the private finance initiative but more *important, it desperately needs resources to pay for a* revitalised local government. Pennies saved in admin mean more for housing and nurseries. Capita should continue to thrive.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	949-948	May	968 SLR
May	975-974	Jul	984-982
Jul	896-894	Sep	1000-997
Sep	917-914	Dec	unq
Dec	913-910		
Mar	953-951		Volume: 5123

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1527-1529	Nov	1567-1560
May	1541-1541	Jan	unq
Jul	1567-1563	Mar	...
Sep	1567-1563		Volume: 6382

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	304.0-302.7
Spot: 314.0		Mar	304.0-298.7
May	316.5-316.5	May	307.6-303.7
Aug	316.9-308.0	Jun	unq
Oct	304.7-03.7		Volume: 568

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on *February 20*

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	93.79	143.15	103.52
(+/-)	+3.67	+3.33	-0.02
Eng/Wales	93.07	144.06	102.92
(+/-)	+1.72	+3.17	+0.22
(%)	-12.1	-1.0	+2.0
Scotland	73.35	139.59	106.04
(+/-)	-1.30	+5.03	n/a
(%)	+13.0	+28.0	-6.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.15	-0.55
Brent 15 day *(Apr)*	19.90	-0.40
Brent 15 day (May)	19.65	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	21.50	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.25	-0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	205 (-3)	207 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	174 (-4)	176 (-4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	92 (-5)	94 (-5)
Naphtha	209 (-5)	212 (-6)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	170.50-70.75	Jun	172.75-73.00
Apr	171.50-71.75	Jul	172.75-73.00
May	172.00 SLR		Vol: 15981

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.87-19.90	Jul	19.33 SLR
May	19.61-19.65	Aug	19.10-19.20
Jun	n/a		Vol: 29317

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	93.95	Mar	92.00
May	97.00	May	93.00
Jul	99.00	Sep	91.00
Sep	92.25	Nov	93.10
Nov	94.25	Jan	95.00
Volume: 427		Volume: 27	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	59.5
Apr	62.0	61.5
May	70.0	71.0
		Volume: 20

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Feb 79.75-80.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 97	1470	1470	1470
Mar 97	1550	1541	1550
Apr 97	1565	1545	1550
Jul 97	1300	1290	1300
Vol: 65 lots			Open Interest 3036

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2442.0-2443.0	2367.0-2368.0	n/a
Lead ($/tonne)	661.00-662.00	668.00-668.50	....
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1194.0-1195.0	1216.5-1217.0	—
Tin ($/tonne)	5975.0-5980.0	6025.0-6030.0	...
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1584.0-1584.5	1615.0-1615.5	...
Nickel ($/tonne)	7834.0-7836.0	7935.0-7940.0	...

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
All'd Dom	420	23	30	42	8	17½	22
(*436½)	460	8	17	23½	29	40	44½
ASDA	110	6½	9½	11½	3½	5	7½
(*112½)	120	2	5½	7	9½	10	12½
Boots	650	47	59½	64½	6	16	21
(*677½)	700	16½	29½	37	24½	38	44½
Br Airways	600	41	51½	62	8½	19	25
(*626)	650	14	26	37	30½	44	50
BP	650	49	62½	71	9	20	24½
(*695)	700	20	35	45	29½	42½	47
Br Steel	140	8	12½	14	4	9½	11
(*143)	160	1½	5	6½	17	23½	25
C & W	500	26½	41	50	15	25½	34
(*507)	550	8	19	29½	44½	54	62½
CU	700	27	43½	50½	29½	43½	57½
(*710)	750	10	26½	37	16	75	88
ICI	750	18½	34½	44	27½	37	48
(*759)	800	5½	17	25	66	71½	80
Land Sec	750	40	59½	57	6½	21	25½
(*776)	800	12½	22	31	27½	45	52
M & S	460	30	36½	44	6½	13	16
(*487)	500	9	15½	25½	25	34	36½
Nat West	800	27½	51	62	30½	46½	59½
(*812)	850	10	31	42½	65½	77½	89
Safeway plc	330	30	36½	40	3	12	15
(*352)	360	12	19½	25	15½	27	30
Sainsbury	330	21	26	31½	6½	13½	15½
(*342)	360	6½	11½	18	21½	30½	32
Shell	1050	40	51½	64	33½	46½	54½
(*1061½)	1100	17	29½	41½	67	75½	83½
SmKl Bch	900	45	67	85	27½	41½	50
(*922½)	950	22	42½	60	55	68	75½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	117	165	194	45	61½	80
(*1870)	1900	65	113	140½	92	108	125½
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
BAT Ind	500	42	51½	60½	14½	24½	34½
(*535)	550	13	30	34½	41½	51½	62
Vodafone	280	17½	26½	32½	10	17½	21½
(*295)	300	9	17½	27½	21½	28½	32
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	460	26	35	42½	14	21	26
(*466)	500	9½	17	25	56	43½	47
Ladbroke	220	15	21½	29	6½	9½	12½
(*230)	240	6	12½	15½	18	20½	23
Utd Bisc	220	21½	26	31½	6½	9	14
(*237)	240	10½	16	21	16½	19	24

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	37½	48	53	4	12½	16
(*529½)	550	9½	20½	27	26½	36	40
Thames W	650	41½	59	62	14½	35	36½
(*675)	700	17½	34	37½	37	62½	64
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BTR	240	12½	16½	21½	14½	17½	20
(*240½)	260	5½	9	14	28½	30½	33
Br Aero	1250	63	92½	111½	40	57½	63
(*1262½)	1300	40	67	88	68	79½	88½
Br Telcm	420	25½	35	36	11	22½	28½
(*428)	460	8	15½	18	34½	49	50½
Cadbury	460	37	43½	49	10	14½	19
(*494½)	500	16	22½	29	30	34	39½
Guinness	420	33	40½	53	5½	11½	13
(*455)	460	15½	25½	30½	22½	29	30½
GEC	360	21	34½	38	7	16	16½
(*375)	390	12	19	23	21½	32	34½
Hanson	110	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	136	—	—	—	—	—	—
LASMO	240	37	24	27	11½	14	15½
(*241)	260	9	15½	18½	23½	25½	27
LucasVarity	160	20	24½	27½	5½	6½	10
(*179)	200	6	14	17½	14½	16	20
Pilkington	180	12½	15½	—	3½	7½	—
(*156)	160	7½	11½	—	8	11½	—
Prudential	550	25	38½	47	26½	35	40½
(*553½)	600	8½	19	27	60½	66½	71½
Redland	330	25	32½	36	17	21	26
(*339½)	360	11½	17½	23½	36	39½	44
R-Royce	220	18½	25	26	10½	15½	17
(*229)	240	9½	16	19½	21½	27	28
Tesco	330	27½	33	38½	9	13	17
(*348½)	360	11	18½	24	24½	28½	32½
Williams	320	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4336½)

	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450
Calls						
Feb	137½	86½	36½	0	0	0
Mar	149½	109½	74	45	24	10½
Apr	172	136	108½	77½	55	37½
May	197½	162½	129½	100	75	54
Jun	220½	—	157	—	102	—
Puts						
Feb	0	0	0	13½	63½	113½
Mar	22½	32½	48	70½	100½	135
Apr	44	63	81½	104	131	161½
May	66½	91½	97	118	142½	172
Jun	79½	—	134	—	160½	—

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	750	37	57	68½	21½	34½	42½
(*776½)	800	13	34	45	51	62	69½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	44	74½	90½	20	46	60½
(*1126)	1150	22	50	66½	57½	72½	87
Nat Pwr	450	40	—	—	7	—	—
(*483½)	500	12½	29	37½	26	44½	48
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	1000	49½	61	77½	32½	47	58½
(*1017½)	1050	17½	40	56½	61½	75	86½
HSBC	1500	96	138	165	31	58	92
(*1576½)	1600	41½	87½	114	81	107½	131½
Reuter	650	39½	57	69½	23½	29½	36
(*671½)	700	17	34	43	49½	59½	62½
Royal & Sun	460	33	41	50½	11	17	24½
(*489½)	500	10½	22	31	33½	40½	45½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Blue Circ	390	19	23½	30½	20½	25	30
(*391)	420	7½	14	19	41	44½	48½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Kingfshr	650	29	41½	54½	27½	39½	46
(*665)	700	10	21	29½	61	66½	74
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**		**Mar**	**Jun**	
Br Gas	240	11	19½	—	4	11	—
(*247)	260	4	10	—	15	24½	—
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Dixons	500	23	41	49	9	23	31½
(*513)	550	4	18½	26½	39	47	56
EMI Group	1200	57½	96½	121½	17	39	57
(*1239)	1250	30	77	95½	37	61	78½
Tarmac	90	9½	11½	13½	1½	3½	3½
(*98)	100	3½	6	8½	4	8½	9½
Hillsdwn	180	8½	12½	14½	1½	9	9
(*184)	200	0½	3½	8	13½	22	23
Lonrho	140	9½	10	13½	4½	8	10
(*141½)	160	0½	3½	6	19	20½	22½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	10	19½	24½	4	11½	17
(*284)	300	2½	11	15	17	22½	26½
Lloyds TSB	500	17	34½	46½	12½	23½	30½
(*514)	550	2	14	25½	48½	54	59½
Sons Pwr	353	10	—	—	8½	—	—
(*353½)	360	6½	19½	25	16	19	25½
Unilever	1600	44	76½	103½	20	55	67½
(*1616½)	1700	8	36½	63	89½	117½	126½

February 21, 1997 Tot: 64098 Call: 26985 Put: 37103 FTSE Call: 10246 Put: 19812
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 216640	Mar 97 Jun 97	113-10 112-28	113-15 112-29	113-05 112-22	113-10 112-27	52365 5532
German Govt Bond (Bund) *Previous open interest: 259149*	Mar 97 Jun 97	103.25 102.45	103.47 102.60	103.17 102.39	103.44 102.61	129683 19071
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 143453	Mar 97 Jun 97	130.65 129.95	130.94 131.13	130.59 129.90	130.90 130.18	50240 7875
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97 Jun 97	125.97 124.57	125.97 124.57	125.90 124.52	125.90 124.51	2052 636
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest: 516965	Mar 97 Jun 97 Sep 97	93.74 93.57 93.40	93.75 93.59 93.41	93.73 93.56 93.39	93.74 93.58 93.39	3428 9248 7288
Three Mth Euromark *Previous open interest: 1211726*	Mar 97 Apr 97	96.80 96.84	96.81 96.84	96.79 96.82	96.79 96.82	20536 1101
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 294268	Mar 97 Jun 97	92.91 93.50	92.94 93.53	92.82 93.44	92.87 93.50	21935 22303
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97 Sep 97	99.42 99.35	99.42 99.35	99.42 99.35	99.42 99.35	286 200
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 97054	Mar 97 Jun 97	98.20 98.28	98.28 98.34	98.20 98.27	98.28 98.34	2159 4933
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 35243	Mar 97 Jun 97	95.87 95.92	95.88 95.93	95.86 95.92	95.86 95.92	994 723
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 65751	Mar 97 *Jun 97*	4325.0 4351.0	4334.0 4352.0	4289.0 4311.5	4324.0 4344.5	17884 500

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞; 3 mth 5⅞. Sell: 2 mth 5¾; 3 mth: 5⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5⅞	6-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅜-6⅜	6⅝-6⅝
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅜-6⅜	6⅝-6⅝

Overnight: open 5⅞ close 5¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅛	6¼	6½
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅜-6⅜	6⅝-6½
Dollar CDs:	5.29	n/a	5.35	5.45	5.67
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅜-6⅜	6⅝-6⅝

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £2,960m allotted: £400m; Bids: £98.560% received: 97%; Last week: £98.54% received: 32%; Avge rate: £5.7748% last wk £5.8415%; Next week: £400m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	*Call*
Dollar:	5⅜-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅜-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅜-3⅛	3⅜-3⅛	3⅜-3⅛	3⅜-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	2-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $351.00-351.30 **Close:** $353.50-354.00 **High:** $354.60-355.10
Low: $350.00-350.50 **AM:** $351.75 **PM:** $351.30

Krugerrand: $353.00-355.00 (£217.50-219.50)

Platinum: $369.25 (£228.05) **Silver:** $5.25 (£3.235) **Palladium:** $136.00 (£84.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0600-3.0704	3.0613-3.0634	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	56.190-56.420	56.204-56.293	15-10pr	46-39pr
Copenhagen	10.389-10.431	10.399-10.407	½-¼pr	¾-½pr
Dublin	1.0251-1.0284	1.0263-1.0279	5-1pr	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.7236-2.7334	2.7240-2.7263	⅛-⅛pr	2-1⅞pr
Lisbon	273.51-274.49	273.51-273.79	⅛-⅜ds	⅛-⅜ds
Madrid	230.54-231.39	230.97-231.23	3-7ds	4-22ds
Milan	2691.5-2701.1	2691.5-2694.2	19-34ds	56-80ds
Montreal	2.1980-2.2060	2.2042-2.2059	0.55-0.50pr	1.14-1.06pr
New York	1.6162-1.6200	1.6188-1.6195	0.105-0.085pr	0.315-0.285pr
Oslo	10.853-10.915	10.866-10.880	⅛-⅛pr	⅜-⅛pr
Paris	9.9180-9.2200	9.1904-9.2057	2⅛-1⅞pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	11.944-12.020	11.964-11.981	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	198.20-198.84	198.75-198.93	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.165-19.239	19.170-19.188	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3724-2.3887	2.3725-2.3750	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel — *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2851-1.2860
Austria	11.85-11.86
Belgium (Com)	34.79-34.80
Canada	1.3598-1.3603
Denmark	6.4280-6.4300
France	5.6900-5.6930
Germany	1.6845-1.6850
Hong Kong	7.7425-7.7435
Ireland	1.5745-1.5755
Italy	1666.15-1666.20
Japan	122.57-122.67
Malaysia	2.4775-2.4785
Netherlands	1.8928-1.8933
Norway	6.7120-6.7186
Portugal	169.16-169.26
Singapore	1.4235-1.4245
Spain	142.68-142.71
Sweden	7.3853-7.3928
Switzerland	1.4674-1.4684

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6177-1.6204
Australia dollar	2.0776-2.0804
Bahrain dinar	0.6015-0.6135
Brazil real*	1.6964-1.7008
China yuan	13.209-13.509
Cyprus pound	0.8090-0.8190
Finland markka	8.0660-8.1810
Greece drachma	422.5-429.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.5173-12.5267
India rupee	58.32-58.28
Indonesia rupiah	3817.0-3885.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4840-0.4940
Malaysia ringgit	4.0054-4.0095
New Zealand dollar	2.3235-2.3266
Pakistan rupee	64.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8075-5.9315
Singapore dollar	2.3014-2.3044
S Africa rand (com)	7.1870-7.2890
U A E dirham	5.8575-5.9815

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3I	1,200	LucasVarity	12,300
ASDA Gp	10,600	Marks Spr	4,600
Abbey Ntl	5,500	Mercury Asset	219
Allied Dom	3,100	NatWst Bk	5,400
Argos	889	Nat Grid	2,900
AB Foods	367	Nat Power	2,900
BAA	1,700	Next	682
BAT Inds	11,100	Orange	1,200
BG	28,400	P & O	1,200
BOC	4,100	Pearson	1,600
BP	10,800	PowerGen	997
BSkyB	2,500	Prudential	4,000
BTR	6,800	RMC	226
BT	9,300	RTZ	4,400
Bk of Scot	4,500	Railtrack	7,500
Barclays	7,700	Rank Group	3,700
Bass	1,700	Reckitt Col	2,500
Blue Circle	2,100	Redland	5,700
Boots	1,800	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	2,300	Rentokil	3,000
BA	3,500	Reuters	2,800
Brit Steel	6,100	Rolls Royce	3,700
Burmah Cstl	1,000	Royal & Sun	4,900
Burton	2,800	Royal Bk Sct	2,800
Cable Wire	2,700	Safeway	1,300
Cadbury	5,700	Sainsbury	5,900
Carlton Cms	3,900	Schroders	1,100
Cm Union	1,300	Scot & New	2,300
Dixons	754	Scot Power	7,400
EMI	1,100	Svrn Trent	534
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Shell Trans	6,500
GKN	2,100	Siebe	1,200
GRE	1,900	SmKl Bch	3,800
GUS	2,400	Smith Nph	2,300
Gen Acc	1,800	Smiths Inds	1,000
Gen Elec	6,300	Std Chartd	3,100
Glaxo Well	6,200	TI Gp	643
Granada	5,300	Tate & Lyle	1,300
Grand Met	6,500	Tesco	4,000
Guinness	5,700	Thames W	954
HSBC	1,700	Tomkins	5,000
Hays	860	Unilever	3,500
ICI	2,900	Utd Utilities	1,200
Imp Tob	2,100	Utd News	1,100
Kingfisher	902	Vodafone	5,900
LASMO	2,900	Whitbread	1,000
Ladbroke	1,700	Wlms Hld	2,000
Land Secs	1,700	Wolseley	1,700
Legal & Gn	3,800	Zeneca	3,900
Lloyds TSB	12,300		

WALL STREET

	Feb 21 midday	Feb 20 close
AMP Inc	39⅝	39⅝
AMR Corp	81½	81¼
ASA	37⅛	37⅛
AT & T	40	40
Abbott Labs	57⅞	58
Advanced Micro	35⅞	36½
Aetna Life	84⅞	84¾
Ahmanson (HF)	41⅞	42⅛
Air Prod & Chem	73⅞	73⅞
AirTouch Comm	27	27⅛
Alberto-Culver B	27⅛	56⅛
Albertson's	35⅞	35⅞
Alcan Aluminm	35⅛	35⅛
Allied Signal	73⅞	73⅞
Alum Co of Am	71	70⅞
Amax Gold Inc	7⅛	7⅛
Amerada Hess	55⅞	55⅞
Amer Brands	52⅛	52⅛
Amer El Power	41⅞	41⅞
Amer Express	66⅞	67⅛
Amer Genl Corp	41⅞	43⅞
Amer Home Pr	65⅞	65⅞
Amer Intl	125	123⅞
Amer Stores	44⅛	45
Amer Standard	45⅞	45⅞
Ameritech	63⅛	63⅛
Amoco	86⅜	86⅜
Anheuser-Busch	42⅞	43
Apple Computer	16⅞	17
Archer Daniels	18⅛	18⅜
Armco	4⅛	4⅛
Armstrong Wrld	68⅞	68⅞
Asarco	30⅞	30
Atl Richfield	127⅞	127⅞
Auto Data Pro	42⅛	42⅛
Avery Dennison	38⅛	38⅞
Avon Products	60⅞	61
Baker Hughes	35⅞	35⅞
Baltim Gas & El	27⅞	27⅞
Banc One	46	46
BankAmerica	118⅞	117⅞
Bank of NY	39⅞	39⅞
Bankers Tr NY	93⅞	92⅞
Barnett Banks	47⅞	48⅞
Bausch & Lomb	37⅞	37⅞
Baxter Intl	47⅞	47⅞
Becton Dickson	49⅞	49⅞
Bell Atlantic	69⅞	69⅞
Bell Industries	22⅞	22⅞
BellSouth	46⅞	46⅞
Black & Decker	32⅞	32⅞
Block (H&R)	30	30
Boeing	107	107⅞
Boise Cascade	32⅞	32⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	131⅞	133⅞
Browning Ferris	31⅞	31⅞
Brunswick	28⅞	28⅞
Burlington Nthn	84⅞	85
CMS Energy Corp	33⅞	33⅞
CNA Financial	110	110⅞
CPC Intl	79⅞	80
CSX	47	47⅞
Campbell Soup	89	89
Can Pacific	26	26⅞
Carolina Pwr	36⅞	36⅞
Caterpillar	79	78⅞
Central & SW	24⅞	24⅞
Champion Intl	41⅞	41⅞
Chase Manhat	102⅞	102⅞
Chevron Corp	65⅞	65⅞
Chrysler	35	34⅞
Chubb Corp	57⅞	57⅞
Cigna Corp	158⅞	158⅞
Citicorp	121⅞	120⅞
Clorox	122⅞	123
Coastal Corp	48⅞	47⅞
Coca Cola	61⅞	61⅞
Coca Cola Ent	63⅞	63⅞
Colgate-Palm	103⅞	103⅞
Columbia Gas	62⅞	62⅞
ColumbiaHCA	43⅞	44
Compaq Comp	79⅞	82⅞
Comp Ass Int	47	47
ConAgra	54⅞	54⅞
Conrail	104⅞	104⅞
Cons Edison	31⅞	31⅞
Cons Nat Gas	52⅞	52⅞
Cooper Inds	44⅞	44⅞
Corestates	53⅞	53⅞
Corning Inc	37⅞	38
Crown Cork	57⅞	57⅞
Dana Corp	31⅞	31⅞
Dayton Hudson	39⅞	39⅞
Deere	41⅞	41⅞
Delta Air Lines	81	81⅞
Deluxe Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Digital Equip	33⅞	34
Dillard Dept St	28⅞	28⅞
Disney (Walt)	75⅞	75
Dominion Res	40⅞	40⅞
Donnelley (RR)	30⅞	30⅞
Dover Corp	50⅞	51
Dow Chemical	79⅞	79⅞
Dow Jones	39⅞	39⅞
Dresser	30⅞	30⅞
Duke Power	45⅞	45⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	24⅞	25
Du Pont	107⅞	106⅞
Eastman Chem	55⅞	55⅞
Eastman Kodak	89⅞	89⅞

	Feb 21 midday	Feb 20 close
Eaton Corp	72⅝	72⅝
Edison Int	22⅛	22¼
Elect Data Sys	45¼	46⅛
Emerson Elec	101½	102
Engelhard Corp	22	22¼
Enron Corp	41½	41½
Entergy	26⅝	26⅝
Ethyl Corp	9¼	9¼
Exxon	103⅝	103⅝
FMC Corp	70⅛	70⅛
FPL Group	45½	45⅞
Federal Express	51¼	51⅝
First Bk Sys	81	80¼
First Union Rlty	13⅛	13¼
Fleet Fnl Grp	57⅝	57⅝
Fluor Corp	64½	64⅝
Ford Motor	33½	33
GTE Corp	47⅜	47¼
Gannett	82½	82⅝
Gap Inc Del	32⅜	32¼
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	69⅜	69⅜
Gen Electric	105⅝	106
Gen Mills	67⅜	67⅜
Gen Motors	58⅞	58⅞
Gen Reinsurance	171½	171½
Gen Signal	46⅛	45⅜
Genuine Parts	45⅞	46
Georgia Pac	73⅜	74¼
Gillette	84⅝	85⅜
Glaxo Welle ADR	32⅜	33⅛
Goodrich (BF)	41⅝	41½
Goodyear Tire	53⅝	53⅝
Grt Atl Pac Tea	30⅝	30⅝
Great Wstn Fin	45	45⅛
Halliburton	66¼	66¼
Harcourt General	47	47⅝
Heinz (HJ)	41½	41½
Hercules	46½	46⅝
Hershey Foods	45⅝	45
Hewlett Packard	55½	56
Hilton Hotels	26⅝	26¼
Home Depot	50½	50⅛
Homestake Mng	16⅛	16
Honeywell	73½	73
Household Intl	98⅜	98¼
Houston Inds	22½	22⅝
Humana	20	19⅜
ITT Corp	57½	57⅝
Ikon Office	45⅝	45⅛
Illinois Tool	86⅜	86¼
Illinova	25⅝	25⅝
INCO	35½	35⅝
Ingersoll Rand	48¼	48
Inland Steel	19⅛	19⅛
Intel Corp	147½	149¼
IBM	139⅝	140¼
Intl Flav & Fr	40⅝	40⅛
Intl Paper	41⅝	41¼
James River Va	30⅛	30¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	60⅜	60⅛
Kellogg	72⅛	72⅜
Kerr-McGee	63½	63½
Kimberly-Clark	99⅜	100
Kmart	11½	12⅛
Knight-Ridder	39⅝	39⅝
Lilly (Eli)	92¼	93⅝
Limited Inc	17⅛	17⅛
Lincoln Nat	57⅜	57⅜
Litton	42⅝	43⅜
Liz Claiborne	41¼	41¼
Lockheed Martin	88¼	88¼
Louisiana Pac	20	20
MCI Comm	35⅜	35½
Manpower Inc	35⅜	35⅜
Marriott Int	56⅝	55⅜
Marsh & McLnn	117⅜	117½
Masco Corp	35⅜	35⅜
May Dept St	45⅜	46
Maytag Corp	21¼	21¼
McDonalds	46	46⅜
McDonnell D	67	67¼
McGraw Hill	50⅜	50⅜
Mead Corp	57⅜	57⅜
Medtronic	66	66⅜
Mellon Bk	81	81½
Merck Inc	96⅜	96⅜
Merrill Lynch	98	98⅜
Microsoft	94⅝	95⅛
Minnesota Mine	83⅝	83⅜
Mobil Corp	128⅝	128½
Monsanto	37⅜	37⅝
Morgan (JP)	108⅝	108⅜
Motorola Inc	59	59⅜
Natl Semicd	26⅝	26½
Natl Service Ind	38⅛	38½
Navistar Int	9⅜	9⅜
NY Times A	43⅝	43⅝
Newmont Mng	47	46⅜
Niag Mohawk	11	11
Nike B	73⅜	73⅝
NL Industries	11¼	11¼
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	35⅝	36
Norfolk Sthrn	89⅜	89⅜
Nthn State Pwr	47⅛	47⅛
Norwest Corp	50	50⅜
Nynex Corp	52⅜	52½
Occidental Pet	25⅝	25⅝
Ohio Edison	22⅝	22⅝

	Feb 21 midday	Feb 20 close
Oracle	40⅝	41½
Oryx Energy Co	21½	21½
Overseas Ship	17⅝	17⅜
Owens Corning	42¼	43⅛
PHH Corp	47⅜	48
PPG Industries	55	55
PNC Bank	42⅛	43¼
PP&L Res	22⅝	22¼
Paccar Inc	66¼	65¼
Pacificorp	20⅜	20⅝
Pac Enterprises	30½	30⅜
Pac Telesis	40⅝	40⅜
Pall Corp	23⅝	24
Parker Hannifin	43⅛	44
Peco Energy	22½	22¼
Penney (JC)	47⅜	47⅜
Pennzoil	59⅜	59⅜
Pepsico	34¼	33⅜
Pfizer	95⅝	95⅝
Pharm & Upjhn	37	36⅛
Phelps Dodge	72	71½
Philip Morris	127⅜	129⅜
Phillips Pet	42⅝	43⅜
Pitney Bowes	61½	61¼
Polaroid	42⅝	42⅝
Procter & Gmbl	124¼	124¼
Providian	55⅛	55⅝
Pub Serv E & G	27½	27¼
Quaker Oats	34¼	34¼
Ralston Purina	84¼	83⅜
Raychem Corp	86⅝	86
Raytheon	47⅝	47⅝
Reebok Intl	51⅜	51½
Reynolds Metals	64⅝	63⅜
Rockwell Intl	67¼	67¼
Rohm & Haas	89⅛	90¼
Royal Dutch	175	174¼
Rubbermaid	24	24⅝
SBC Comms	56¼	57
Safeco Corp	41½	41¼
St Paul's Cos	70½	71
Salomon Inc	58¼	58⅜
Sara Lee Corp	39⅛	39⅝
Schering Plough	78¼	79⅜
Schlumberger	102⅝	102⅜
Seagram	40⅜	40⅜
Sears Roebuck	53⅛	53⅝
Shell Trans	102¼	103⅛
Sherwin Wllms	57½	57⅜
Skyline Corp	23⅜	23⅛
Snap-On-Tools	40⅝	39⅝
Southern Co	21½	21½
Sprint Corp	43⅛	[illegible]
Stanley Works	37½	[illegible]
Sun Company	27½	27
Sun Microsys	32⅝	33⅛
Suntrust	52⅝	53⅛
Supervalu	31⅝	31½
Sysco Corp	34⅜	34⅝
TRW Inc	51½	51⅝
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	13⅝	13½
Tandy Corp	48⅛	47⅝
Temple Inland	55⅝	55⅜
Tenneco	38⅛	38⅝
Texaco	102⅝	101½
Texas Inst	80½	81½
Texas Utilities	40⅝	40⅝
Textron	100⅝	100⅝
Time Warner	42⅜	42⅝
Times-Mirror A	52	51¼
Timken	53⅝	53⅜
Torchmark	57⅛	57⅝
Toys R Us	25⅜	25⅝
Transamerica	87	86⅝
Travelers	54¼	55
Tribune	40	40
Tyco Inc	56⅝	56⅝
UST Inc	31½	31½
UAL	59⅝	59⅝
US Inds	35½	35⅝
US West Comm	34½	33½
US West Media	18⅜	19⅝
USX Marathon	26⅝	26¼
Unicom	25⅝	22⅝
Unilever NV	197	198⅝
Union Camp	47½	47⅝
Union Carbide	46⅝	46⅝
Union Pacific	60⅝	60
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USAIR Group	20⅝	20
USF&G Corp	22⅝	22¼
US Life	47⅝	47⅝
United Tech	77	76½
Unocal Corp	40⅝	39⅝
VF Corp	70⅝	70⅝
WMX Tech	35⅝	35⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	23⅝	24
Warner-Lambert	84⅜	84½
Wells Fargo	309⅜	308⅝
Westinghouse El	17⅝	17⅝
Weyerhaeuser	48⅝	48⅝
Whirlpool	50¼	50⅝
Whitman	24⅛	23⅝
Winn Dixie	31½	31⅝
Woolworth	20⅝	19⅝
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	61½	61½
Xerox	57	57⅝
Yellow Corp	16⅝	16⅝

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Turning up the heat on British Gas

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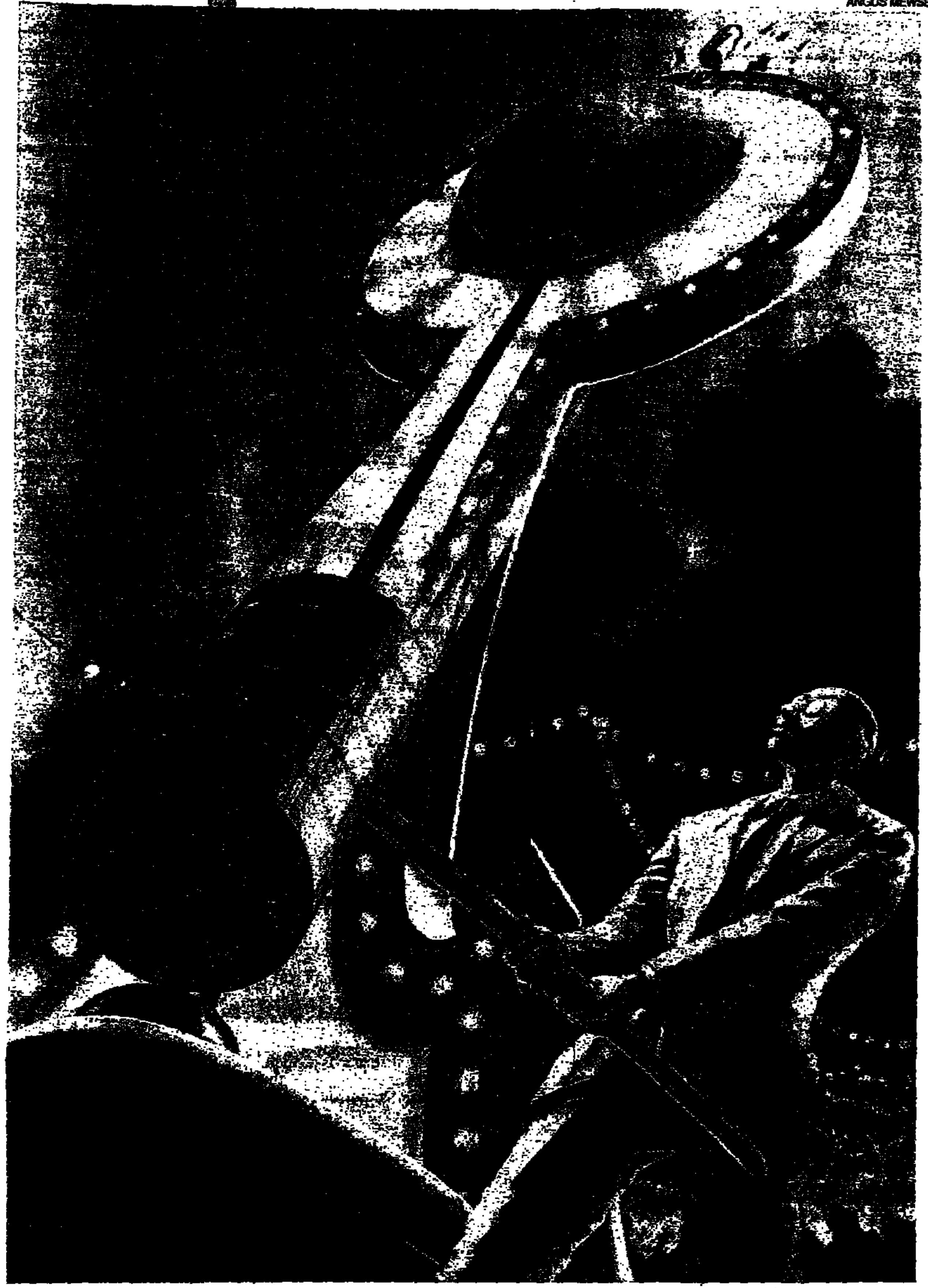
ETHICAL STANCE 38

Increase your wealth with a clear conscience

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



ANGUS MEWSE

Shock waves of strong sterling

Caroline Merrell looks at the rising pound's profound effect on all aspects of the economy

For the person in the street, the only obvious effect of a sharp rise in the strength of sterling against other currencies is that holidays suddenly become much cheaper.

However, the pound's rise over the last few months will have a profound effect on all aspects of the economy, from the price of mortgages to the cost of sugar. It will also have a big impact on investments, savings, fixed-interest securities such as gilts, and company profits.

As the company reporting season begins, some, such as Reuters, the communications group, are already blaming disappointing figures on sterling's strength. Volkswagen, the German carmaker, gave warning last week that it would cease to buy British car components if they continued to get more expensive because of sterling's inexorable rise. Here *The Times* explains what the long-term impact of the strong pound will be.

■ **Interest rates.** The base rate in the UK is one of the highest among the developed nations. Foreign investors, such as the Americans, Japanese and continental Europeans, have rushed to invest in sterling. The situation is unlikely to change because these countries do not appear likely to increase rates enough to attract back investors.

Despite pressure from the Bank of England, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is refusing to raise the UK base rate. However, many economists, including Chris Turner at BZW, believe that interest rates will have to go up to try to ease inflationary pressures. Mr Turner said: "We are still looking for three increases in base rates, bringing the total rise before the end of the year to 0.75 or 1 per cent."

Rises in the base rate will be matched by rises in mortgage rates and savings rates. A rise in interest rates means that foreigners will be more likely to continue to invest in sterling, thus keeping the pound strong.

■ ***Inflation.*** At the moment, the Government is trying to hit its inflationary target of 2.5 per cent, without increasing interest rates. A strong pound is deemed to be a deflationary factor. Last year an estimated £178 billion was spent on imports. This same sum of money could buy many more imports this year, which means that the price of goods may not rise.

■ **Company profits.** These are almost certainly going to be hit by the rise in the pound. Nearly half of the profits earned by the biggest 100 companies in the UK are earned from abroad. These stated profits will be damaged by a strong pound.

However, John Hatherly, M&G head of research, said: "The problems caused by the translation of overseas profits into sterling may be matched by companies borrowing overseas and paying off the interest in pounds."

■ ***UK manufacturers.*** The biggest victims of the rising pound will be UK manufacturing companies, many of which rely on export sales for a large part of their profits. Their goods will now be more expensive than many of their competitors' goods.

The damage will be slightly mitigated by the fact that UK companies will have to pay less for their raw materials. However, Mr Hatherly said: "Manufacturing companies in Germany did well despite the rise of the mark against the other currencies ... German companies managed to become very much more efficient. In the UK, manufacturers will have to go through a period of painful adjustment."

■ ***Unit and investment trusts.*** At the end of last year many of the returns made on rising world markets by those with internationally invested unit trusts, personal equity plans and investment trusts were wiped out by the currency movements.

Mr Hatherly said: "Many fund managers have in the past relied on a devaluing pound to boost returns from overseas investments. They will now have to pay much more attention to the underlying stock." Mr Hatherly said he advised investors who were concerned about currency risk to keep their investments restricted to the UK.

■ **Gilt-edged stocks.** Some investment managers believe that gilts are a particularly good buy at the moment. Ten-year gilts currently yield around 7.1 per cent, more than 1 per cent higher than the German equivalent. Foreign investors may be attracted by the yield and the fact that any income earned will be in sterling, which is appreciating in value.

More buyers will push up the price and the overall returns. Investments that rely on gilts include National Savings products and some fixed-interest unit trusts.

■ ***Holidays.*** One of the most appealing factors about the pound's rise is that holidays will be cheaper. According to American Express, £1 bought 7.53 francs a year ago. Now £1 buys 9.06 francs — a difference of nearly 20 per cent. Holidaymakers to Spain were given 187 pesetas for each pound exchanged, today they will receive 229 pesetas — 22 per cent more. However, those holidaying in the US now get $1.57 to the pound, compared with $1.49 a year ago — a 5 per cent difference.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Halifax unmoved by campaign

The Halifax Building Society is refusing to bow to pressure from MPs and consumer bodies to compensate elderly, widowed and disabled members who have been excluded from the share distribution because their accounts are run by trustees.

As the society's 8.5 million members prepare to vote at Monday's special general meeting on the plans to become a bank, pressure is growing for the society to use the occasion to commit itself to paying free shares directly to disabled members and others whose savings are handled by trustees. *The Times* has been campaigning against societies that refuse to give free shares to such members in their own right. Societies argue that only the first named on the account is a member and that members can receive only one payout each.

This excludes thousands of disabled and elderly people who are unable to handle their financial affairs and whose accounts are held in the name of relatives, friends or professionals acting as trustees.

Douglas French, MP, sponsor of a Private Member's Bill which would force societies to include such disenfranchised people in their payout schemes, this week called on the Halifax to use Monday's meeting to make a "significant gesture and promise to come forward with a formula to recognise the interests of people being left out".

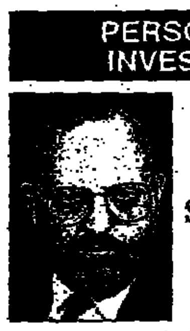
Mr French's Bill received an unopposed first reading in the Lords last Monday and will receive its second reading next Friday. If the Bill goes through unopposed, it could receive Royal Assent in early March. As it stands, the Bill is not retrospective. The Halifax and other societies, including the Woolwich and the Alliance & Leicester, would not be forced to include trustee-held accounts in bonus payouts.

However, Mr French believes the societies have an "enormous moral obligation" to do so. He said: "The Halifax has an untenable position to say its scheme is fair. It is clear what the wishes of Parliament and public are."

SARA MCCONNELL

Banks build the bottom line

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Traditionally, a pound managed by a great British bank was reckoned to be worth a fair bit less than the pound in your pocket. The skills of your friendly local bank manager devalued the assets he ran. Whereas most companies were valued by the stock market at more than their balance sheet worth, banks were priced at a discount.

There was, it turned out, a sound reason. In the 1970s and 1980s, banks showed an uncanny knack for losing money in large quantities. The more dynamic they became, the more spectacular the disasters for shareholders.

Few creatures are more dynamic than a lemming in full cry. Almost as one, banks successively rushed to lend on property, which crashed, to developing countries, which defaulted, on American oil and property, which dived, for small business expansion, which shrank rapidly in the 1990 slump, and for big developments that ran into trouble.

Profitable business was forever undermined by sometimes huge provisions against bad debts. Even some of their hefty dividends, the main solace for investors, were slashed. Midland, one of the worst hit, was finally taken over by Far East champion HSBC, to City relief. Banks were a laughing stock.

Not any more. For a while, banks have been disaster-free and underlying profits have grown apace. Bank shares have been the darlings of the market, leading and outpacing the market averages. Over the past five years, the FT-SE retail bank index has soared by nearly 300 per cent, against about 75 per cent for the all-share index. Powered more by profits than rerating, bank shares now typically trade at two to three times book value.

Can it last? It is hard to believe banks have given up old habits. But there are signs of fundamental change. Sir Brian Pitman, whose dedication to shareholder value paid big dividends at Lloyds, inspired a new generation of unsentimental bottom-line bank bosses. They drive to cut costs and cut again, to match low-cost building societies and Abbey National, which has made a successful transition to banking. Telephones, computers and cash machines enabled this cost revolution and bring new products.

If small customers quit in fury when they find their branch has closed, their bank manager has been fired along with the staff, or been replaced by a youthful salesman, and they can only communicate with a faulty computer with no memory, then too bad. New customers can be bought and the cost of servicing them cut in turn. It seems to work. Top British banks are now among the world's most profitable.

Clearing banks' cost ratios are still high, allowing for their broader mix of business; NatWest is now wielding the sabre on staff and branches. Expansion focuses on areas such as consumer credit, mortgages and fund management, historically safer than ambitious foreign ventures. Banks have infiltrated potential competition from telephone banking and credit cards and will partake in the supermarket challenge.

There is also a new caution. Barclays, which used to have to run to shareholders for more gambling money, now passes surplus capital back to shareholders rather than feeling compelled to lend it on any plausible passing proposition. Best of all, the UK economy that banks operate in has become quieter: steadier interest rates, steadier price levels and therefore less instability in the markets on which borrowers rely. If this continues, banks have a chance of staying on the straight and narrow.

Things can still go wrong. High profits invite competition, not least from converting building societies. Credit quality will deteriorate. Profit-taking on the Barclays results shows that a long bull market creates its own risks. The sector, though still not highly rated, is vulnerable to a market break. Soon, however, millions of people will become investors in new banks with new potential such as Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester. They should not be in a hurry to sell. These now look the best way into the sector.

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Better deals emerge to encourage loyalty, says **Caroline Merrell**

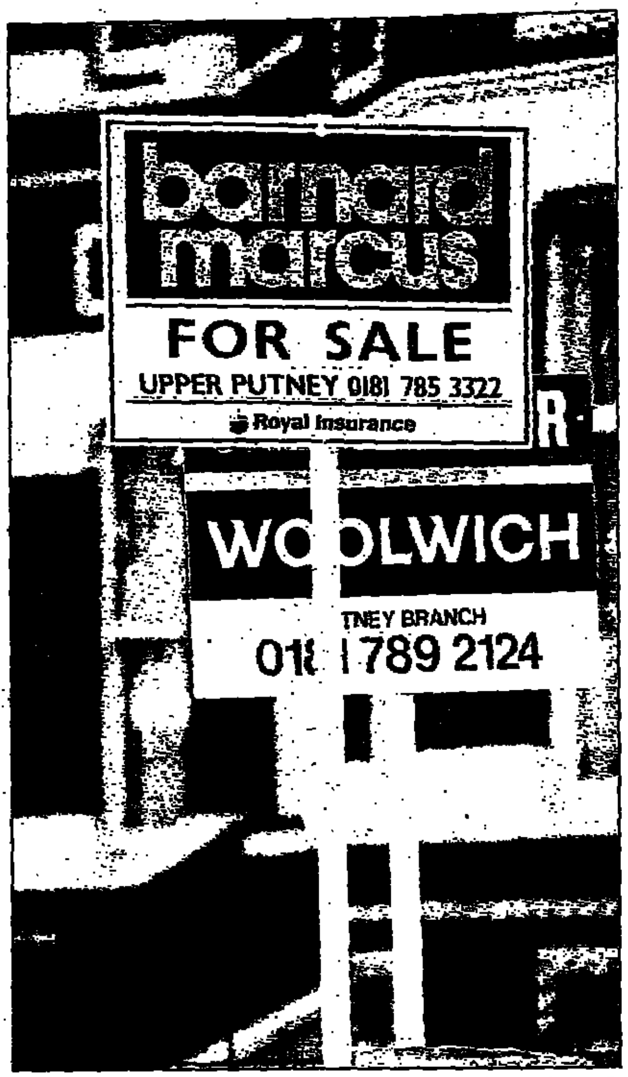
A little extra incentive for Halifax borrowers

The Halifax, the United Kingdom's biggest lender with 19 per cent of the mortgage market, this week launched two schemes aimed at keeping its customers loyal.

The first initiative cuts more than 1 per cent off its range of fixed-rate loans, while the second offers a cashback of up to £10,000 spread over three years. The Halifax is now offering a five-year fixed-rate loan, with an interest rate set at 7.65 per cent. Previously the rate was 8.45 per cent. Its three-year fixed rates have a rate of 6.9 per cent, against 7.85 per cent previously, while its two-year fixed rate is 6.45 per cent, against 7.25 per cent.

The Christmas cashback scheme will pay borrowers a sum equal to 1 per cent of the outstanding loan, on December 1, for three years. Borrowers will also get a 1 per cent cashback when they take out the mortgage.

This aggressive move is seen by some as an attempt by the Halifax to maintain market share. Its 2.1 million borrowers have been effectively locked in since it announced in 1994 that it planned to merge with the Leeds and float on the stock market. Borrowers have been unable to move their loans — doing so would jeopardise their allocation of shares, expected to be worth around £840.



Years of pent-up demand for property is being released

Elsewhere, mortgage brokers are reporting an increase in business as three to four years of pent-up demand for property is released. Brokers are claiming an increase in demand for 100 per cent mortgages despite the problems experienced by those buying houses without a deposit at the end of the Eighties. It was this category of borrowers that experienced the greatest difficulty during the recession.

However, those in the mortgage market consider that lenders to these borrowers have learnt how to underwrite the loans with a little more care. Ian Darby, marketing director at John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said: "In reality, underwriting a 100 per cent loan is very similar to underwriting a 90 to 95 per cent loan."

He said it was easier for those with no deposit to try to borrow the entire value of their property, rather than using credit cards and personal loans to fund a deposit. He said: "Borrowing at 7.24 per cent or the average mortgage rate is much better than trying to take out a bank loan where the rates will be much higher."

Mr Darby said that he was also experiencing a rise in demand for fixed-rate loans. Of the Halifax move, he said: "I reckon the Halifax needed to cut their fixed rates because they were way out of line with the market."

Potential borrowers are being drawn to fixed-rate loans because of the security they provide. Many brokers believe that interest rates are almost sure to rise despite Kenneth Clarke's refusal to cave in to pressure from the Bank of England. Among the fixed rates recommended by John Charcol is a five-year 7.45 per cent rate from the Leeds & Holbeck, and a two-year 5.29 per cent mortgage from the Skipton.

Mr Darby and other mortgage brokers gave warning that borrowers should make sure that they understand the redemption penalties that apply to fixed-rate loans.

David Duncan, director of residential mortgages at Chase de Vere, said: "I would ask anyone planning to take out a fixed rate to make sure that they understand the redemption penalties. Many lenders are now expressing redemption penalties as a percentage of the loan rather than as a few months' interest."

Expressing penalties as a percentage of the loan could lead some borrowers into believing that they face paying less if they redeem their loan than they would in schemes where redemptions are expressed in terms of monthly interest.

Mr Darby also gave warning against some of the deeply discounted mortgages which were in vogue a few months ago — mortgages as low as 1 per cent were being offered.

One of the conditions of many discounted loans is that the borrower must move to the variable rate as soon as the discount ends, which in some cases could double the mortgage payments overnight.

Best buys, page 42

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COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Sainsbury's. Even its name sounds downbeat, as tired as its stores. In the dreary aisles and the populous queues of my local branch, I seldom feel more like singing the blues.

The supermarket is now hoping to regain its place in the nation's affections by diversifying into banking. The move suggests that Sainsbury's may, after all, be capable of copying the successful innovations of others.

As Delia Smith could tell you, there is much to be gained by following a tried and tested recipe. The highly efficient First Direct, created by the Midland, has obviously served as one model for the Sainsbury's bank.

Sainsbury's has begun well by offering a highly competitive 5.75 per cent rate on balances of as little as £1. Small savers could earn a better return only by taking a risk with their money. These customers have largely been forgotten by the building societies who prefer investors with larger sums. Anyone now aspiring to open an account with £100 is seen only as a speculator, hoping to benefit from a future conversion.

The generous interest rate should also ensure that Sainsbury's wins a significant number of new savers when Halifax and the other societies becoming banks distribute their windfalls in the summer.

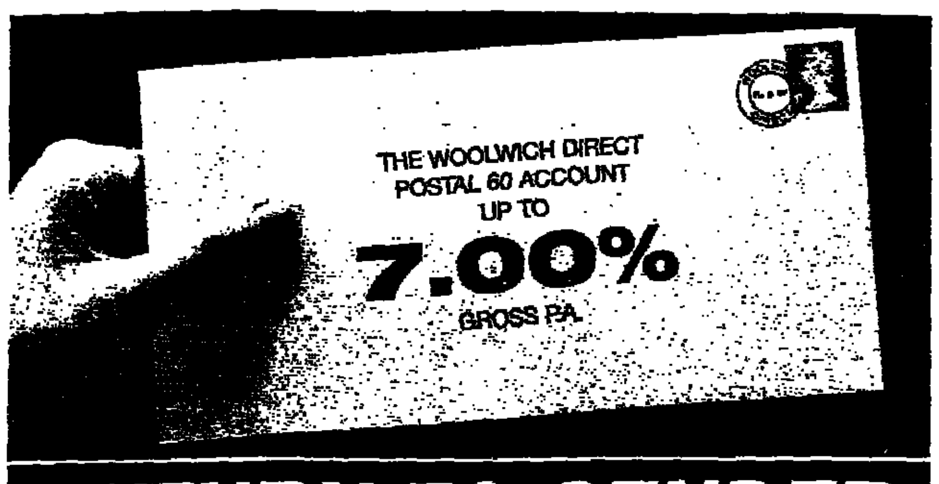
Savers who have been locked into low-paying accounts will be anxious to find a new home for their cash. The Abbey National has already declared its intention to win as much of this money as possible. Another rival should act in the most satisfactory way to increase rates all round.

Customers, however, should not be overwhelmed by Sainsbury's generosity. Its savings account is a loss leader. If you sign up with the supermarket, it may attempt to encourage you to fill your trolley with other financial products but you would be best advised to shop around.

Beyond belief

BOWING to demands for information from its 1.1 million policyholders, Scottish Amicable this week said it will name its chosen bidder in March. However, the situation remains far from satisfactory. The with-profit policyholders who own Scottish Amicable will have no chance to compare the eight rival offers from Abbey National, the Prudential and others.

The Scottish Amicable board will be guided in its decision by SBC Warburg and the other advisers who a few weeks ago recommended the company's flawed plan for its future. This was presented as "a real opportunity to maximise value for with-profit policyholders", although it richly rewarded directors and gave the policyholders a paltry sum. How will anyone have any faith in their opinion?



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A proposal to buy insurance to ring-fence assets is expected, says **Marianne Curphey**

A new look at long-term care

Tens of thousands of elderly people who could need nursing home care in the final years will learn within weeks how the Government expects them to pay for it.

Although the long-awaited draft Bill on long-term care is due to be published soon, there will be a consultation period for insurers and charities, and ministers admit it is unlikely to become law before the general election.

That leaves many about to enter private nursing homes confused and anxious. It also means that those who are ill and may need nursing between now and the summer face a dilemma.

The draft Bill is expected to propose a partnership scheme whereby an individual may buy an insurance policy to ring-fence their assets and prevent a proportion of them being used to pay for care.

The working details have not yet been released, but they are expected to suggest that for every £1 worth of insurance taken out, the Government will "disregard" between £1.50 and £2 of assets.

In Britain, single pensioners with assets of between £10,000 and £16,000 now have to contribute towards a proportion of the cost of nursing care, while those with more than £16,000, including their homes, have to meet the full bill. These regulations have been criticised for penalising pensioners who save.

Under new proposals expected, if a person bought insurance worth £40,000, then, together with the £16,000 "disregarded", for single pensions, the State would allow assets worth between £56,000 and £96,000 to be left free for inheritance, before it claimed any surplus to cover long-term care costs.

Age Concern England said that it was concerned that the proposals would benefit a very small number of people who could afford to pay for such insurance. "We would like to see all political parties making a commitment to providing free nursing care to everyone."

The Continuing Care Conference, which represents charities, care providers, local authorities, financial product providers and consumer organisations, called on all the political parties to give the issue top priority during the election campaign.

It says it is concerned that none of the parties has presented comprehensive proposals that deal with the long-term and the immediate problems facing large numbers of older people. About 160,000 older people go into nursing or residential homes each year and 40,000 people are forced to sell their homes to meet long-term care costs.

Frank Field, Labour MP and chairman of the Social Security Select Committee, proposes that people should buy insurance to cover the risk of needing professional care at the end of their lives. Everyone would pay 3 per cent of their income towards this, and payments would be triggered when the person qualified for help for medical reasons.

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Fears over the cost of care mean only the likes of Joe in *Cocoon* face a free-wheeling future

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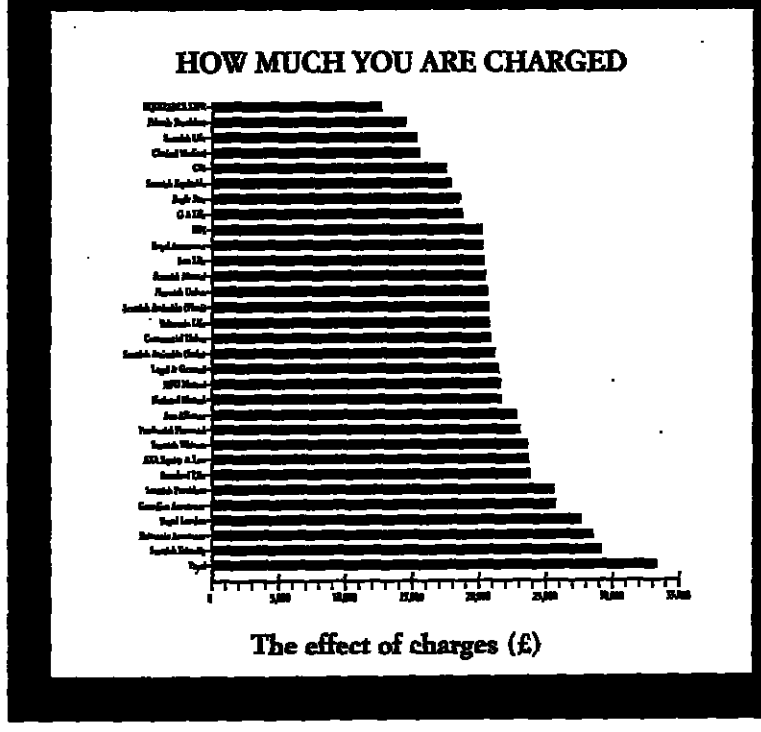

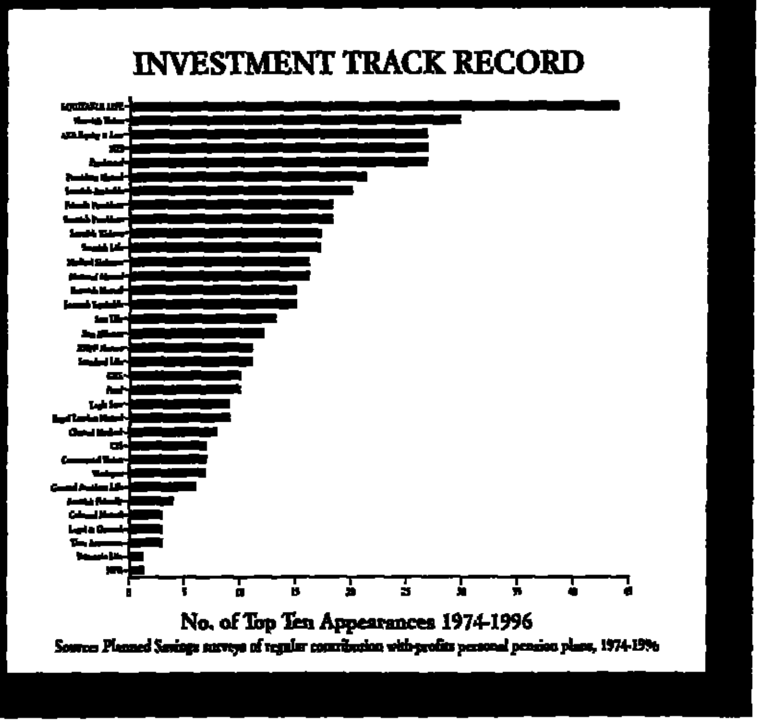

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*Source: Micropal to 01/02/97, offer to bid, with gross income reinvested.
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Homeowners caught by development plans

Property blight is affecting more and more people, reports Sara McConnell

PAUL COUSANS

Doomed: Catherine Lane in the grounds of her home, Hill House, a Grade II listed property that will be demolished to make way for the second runway at Manchester airport

Homeowners near the path of the proposed second runway at Manchester airport this week vowed to fight on against the expansion, which they say has blighted their properties for the past six years and trapped them in homes which they cannot sell. In some cases, the value of homes has dropped by more than half, they claim.

Hundreds of thousands of homeowners across the country are similarly affected by road schemes, rail routes and other big public projects involving environmental upheaval for years or even decades. Even those who qualify for compensation face years of waiting with no prospect of claiming until a scheme has been up and running for a year.

The rules governing compensation were last year attacked as inadequate by the Select Committee on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. A government working group is reviewing payments to homeowners and is expected to report "shortly". The Halifax Building Society confirmed that it was compiling a report on property prices in blighted areas.

Janet Armstrong-Fox, a solicitor and member of the planning and environmental law group of Collyer-Bristow, a firm of solicitors, said: "This review is years overdue. For too long homeowners who find themselves in the locality of a popular scheme have had no alternative but to brace themselves for years of uncertainty with no guarantee of adequate compensation for either their financial loss or the misery they will invariably suffer."

Campaigners against the second runway at Manchester airport this week started a legal challenge to the Government's decision last month to approve the plans after an eight-month public inquiry. Barry Hepburn, co-ordinator of the Manchester Airport Joint Action Group, is leading the challenge. He said the group was "buoyed up to fight on". Some homeowners had seen the value of their homes drop by more than £100,000. He said: "People close to the second runway are finding their homes virtually unsaleable."

However, a successful challenge would mean further uncertainty, particularly for the residents of the worst-affected areas, which include Mobberley and Knutsford. Rick Dallimore, a partner in Meller Braggins, a Knutsford estate agents, said: "The new runway will end in the centre of Mobberley, which is causing problems. We have houses for sale which don't sell, or at least not at an acceptable price. The airport has bought a lot of properties off people, but we are left with the people whose homes adjoin the runway."

One Mobberley resident, Martin Bridgford, has been trying to sell his five-bedroom cottage for four-and-a-half years. It went on the market for £335,000 in June 1992. Now it is worth an estimated £100,000 less because of the runway plans, according to his estate agent. Almost all prospective buyers say they do not want to buy because of the airport. Last month one buyer's surveyor concluded: "It is difficult to see why anyone should want to buy this house because of the airport situation."

Other residents who spoke to *The Times* refused to be named in case they jeopardised any slim chance of a sale. One has been trying to sell his four-bedroom detached house since 1991.

He and his wife want to move to a smaller, more manageable house. The couple estimate the house is worth about £400,000, but one buyer offered £140,000. They said: "It's a basic right that people need to move. We're almost in despair. All our lives we've had reasonable control over what happens. Now we have none."

Mr Bridgford is angry that Manchester airport has so far refused to exercise its discretionary powers to buy blighted property. The airport said in a statement: "The second runway development will be managed to keep disturbance in the locality to a minimum. After the second runway is operational, the airport company will honour its legal obligations in respect of proper claims for compensation."

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IF YOUR home is in the path of a scheme and is compulsorily purchased for demolition:

- The authority buying your home (for example, a government agency) must pay the price you would have got if there were no plans to build anything and you had sold it in the normal way. You can also claim moving and legal expenses, but you cannot buy a more expensive home and claim for the difference.
- You can also claim a "home loss" payment of 10 per cent of the market value of your home to compensate for distress and inconvenience. The minimum you can claim is £1,500 and the maximum £15,000.
- You only qualify for these payments if you have been living in your home for at least a year.
- The authority has up to three years after it has served a compulsory purchase order to exercise its powers and negotiate compensation. If it fails to negotiate within three years, the notice is invalidated and you could claim for expenses.
- If part of your land is compulsorily purchased, you will be paid the market value for the land and possibly compensation for a loss in value of the rest of your land.
- You may be able to serve a blight notice, forcing the authority to buy if you cannot sell because of a proposed scheme which may include the compulsory purchase of your property in future.

IF YOUR home is near but not directly in the path of a project, you are in many ways worse off than if your home was compulsorily purchased, according to Collyer-Bristow solicitors.

- You can only claim compensation if you can prove the value of your home has reduced as a direct consequence of the scheme.
- If you can prove a loss is directly as a result of such a scheme, you can claim compensation for the depreciation in the value your property would have had if the scheme had not existed. You will get a percentage of this value, normally between 5 per cent and 7.5 per cent.
- You cannot claim anything until the scheme has been up and running for a year.

Further information is included in *Land Compensation — Your Rights Explained*, published by the Department of the Environment. Free initial advice on blight problems can be obtained from The Environmental Law Foundation, an independent group of specialist lawyers, on 0171-404 1030.

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Martin Waller concludes his five-part series on investing

Bid battles explained

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE STOCK MARKET

You are nearly there. There are just a few odd points you need to know, starting with what happens when one company bids for another.

Takeover bids

Our lives are crammed with decisions. Some we take immediately, others we have a few days to mull over. Few of us have two whole months to decide even the most serious.

Peculiarly, this is how long you get to decide whether or not to sell your shares to a company that may want to buy them. The mechanics of the bid are thus. Company A says it wants to buy company B. It names a price it is prepared to pay for each share — generally well above that share's previous price, unless the bid is widely expected.

The offer may be straight cash, a mixture of cash and new shares or loans to be issued by company A. Another type of offer, although rare, is one entirely of new shares. If the offer includes shares, there will generally be a **full cash alternative** pitched slightly below the value of the share offer.

If you have shares in company B, you must decide if the offer fully values them. Consult a financial adviser or the press, and remember the first rule: never hurry. If the offer is agreed by company A immediately, a joint announcement is made that a deal has been done.

If it is contested, the board of company B will generally advise its shareholders to take no action. Follow this advice: most contested bids have to be raised to be successful, and first offers are often just sighting shots. But if you accept the first offer and it is later raised, you get the higher amount anyway.

Once a formal document is issued, the takeover has 60 days to be resolved. Although most companies' shares are owned by big City institutions, small shareholders are of some importance. The bidder must gain the assent of more than 50 per cent of the shares issued. Bids have been won or lost by just a few thousand shares. The offer document will tell you how to accept. You will then receive circulars from both sides. Company B's record is "seriously flawed", company A could run company B better, and so on — a quick read and bin most of it.

If you fail to accept and the bid succeeds, obviously you get the price on offer. If a majority accept, it is always best to go along with them. Conversely, you do not get the money if the bid fails, even if you have accepted it. If it fails, expect the share price, which will have risen to approach the terms on offer, to crash back again.

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The players

City operators today may be conglomerates, huge financial institutions that might house merchant banks advising companies on finance and City business, such as takeovers and broking businesses that buy and sell shares. They may also own fund managers that hold them long-term, although most are independent and skilled at playing off banks and brokers against each other.

CENTRAL BROADCASTING

Beware: the City is not without its Arthur Daley characters

Whatever the structure, they are supposed to operate separately. If a merchant bank learns that its client, company A, is to bid for company B tomorrow and the shares can be expected to rise, it is clearly unacceptable for a banker to tell the brokers to buy the shares now. The two businesses are under one roof, but are said to be separated by a **Chinese Wall**.

I said "supposed". Actions such as the purchase I just described are not unknown, and are an example of **insider trading** and illegal, as would be the purchase of shares in company B by a company A employee who knew about the bid beforehand. But all this does happen — it is not unusual for shares in a company to rocket before a bid is announced. Clearly, somebody knew and dealt in the shares. But there are few successful prosecutions.

AIM

The Alternative Investment Market (AIM) is a kindergarten for companies that lack the mature trading record that the Stock Exchange requires for admission to the **Official List**, the main body of traded shares. Created in June 1995, it is relatively new, as are most of the companies quoted on it. They are, by definition, risky investments. Any money invested in AIM stock should be regarded similarly to visiting a racetrack. You could lose the lot.

Tax

Dividends are paid net of tax, which is paid in advance by the company. This absolves most investors from having to pay tax up to the standard rate. If you pay higher-rate tax you must make up the difference. If you pay no tax, you can reclaim it.

So there you are. I have cantered through the basics of what every shareholder should know. The most important quality for any investor is caution. Not everyone in the City is a crook, an Arthur Daley or a con-man. But some are.

Regard anyone approaching you with an investment opportunity as you would a second-hand car dealer. Plenty of those are honest, too, and there are perfectly good cars on their forecourts. But there are two sides to every share purchase. If the shares you are being urged to buy are such a good deal, why is the other side so keen to sell? Happy investing.

The venture capital industry reflects the fortunes of a vital area of the economy: small and medium - sized enterprises. These businesses play a key role in wealth creation and job creation in the UK, in the European Union, in the United States and in the "tiger economies" of South East Asia. An economy with a thriving and expanding number of SMEs is almost certainly doing well as a whole.

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[illegible] venture capital industry [illegible] itself [illegible] has [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] capital [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] small businesses [illegible] in the [illegible] and early [illegible] we now [illegible] major industry. Our skills [illegible] being exported to [illegible] continental [illegible] and beyond. [illegible] overall objective [illegible] quality [illegible] thus [illegible] wealth. 3i [illegible] investment [illegible]

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Clare Stewart examines the public's reaction to gas competition

So do we just love being in control?

Remember that catchy slogan "don't you just love being in control", as offered by finger-snapping celebrities to induce a nice warm feeling about British Gas? As with many slogans, it probably scored more on catchiness than accuracy.

True, the average gas user was able to choose different ways of paying bills and to use more or less gas depending on their needs. But when it came to choosing a gas supplier, the element of choice disappeared. British Gas was the only option.

This is no longer the case. Deregulation means that by the first week of March nearly two million households will have been offered a chance to change to a different and cheaper gas supplier. Opening up the remainder of the market to competition will follow, but precise timing is a matter of debate between British Gas and Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, who is keen to speed up the process.

Ironically, in the areas where the market has been opened up, the fact that consumers really are in control has been far from obvious, prompting criticism that not enough was done to inform and educate customers in advance. The change to being able to select from at most 15 licensed suppliers seems to have left consumers rather bemused.

The first phase of deregulation began last April and covered people living in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. While the message that switching supplier would lead to savings was not difficult to get across, consumer response was affected by worries that a switch would need a new meter or the installation of new pipes.

In fact, it should simply involve informing British Gas, settling the final bill and then paying the new supplier when necessary. Same gas, same pipes is the message suppliers are keen to communicate.

But householders were taken by surprise by the arrival of door-to-door salesmen. The high-pressure sales tactics of some suppliers led to complaints from people who felt that they had been pushed into signing up without fully understanding their options. There were also instances of customers being switched to a new supplier without their knowledge. Tighter controls have now been introduced and all suppliers have signed a code of practice which can be enforced.

To add to the confusion in the market British Gas has just demerged. The retail arm, which includes British Gas Home Energy, the supplier to the homes, is now called Centrica. BG plc is the exploration and distribution business which includes TransCo, the pipelines business. This remains the company to call if you think there is a gas leak — regardless of who is supplying the gas.

Overall prices in both the first and second phase amount to an average saving of 20 per cent. But the actual saving that each household can achieve will be calculated according to the amount of gas used — the higher the usage, the lower the unit price — and how you choose to pay.

Calortex, the partnership between Calor Gas and Texaco, claims to have secured the largest share of the market in the South West, with more than 44,000 customers. Households paying an annual bill of £300 can save between £49 to £59 at Calortex's current tariffs, depending on whether they pay by cheque or cash quarterly or by monthly direct debit.

SWEBGas, part of South Western Electricity, offers a minimum saving of at least 17 per cent. On a current £300 gas bill this translates into savings of between £51 and £63.

But these savings are not shared across the board. According to research by the Gas Consumers Council and the National Right to Fuel Campaign, customers using prepayment meters are losing out. Because of the expense involved administering such meters, pre-payment customers will pay on average 26 per cent more than those paying by direct debit.

Excluding the cost of prepayment meters, prices for other customers do show a range of discounts and in general have been fixed for around a year, if not longer, from the time of signing.

What is still unknown is how prices will compare further down the line once the whole market has been opened up to competition.

At present British Gas cannot join the fray and cut its cost to match those of the new competitors. It can only do that once it has satisfied Ofgas that a genuine competitive market has been established.

Tempting as the cut-price offers appear, customers able to shop around need to look closely at the small print. Many of the customer complaints investigated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) during the first phase involved examples of potentially unfair clauses in customer contracts, such as the way gas usage estimates were made.

The full implications of deregulation have yet to be seen, and future price trends will be driven not just by the market price for gas but also by the outcome of a number of events. For example, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is investigating the price British Gas charges for carrying gas in its pipeline. If the MMC requires prices to be reduced, suppliers will be able to pass on some of that to customers.

With a number of issues to be resolved between BG and Ofgas, it looks as if customers not included in the first phase of deregulation will have to wait until 1998 for cheaper gas to come their way. However one advantage may be that some of the teething problems will have been sorted out.

For further information, *Choice: The Ofgas Guide to Gas Competition* is available by calling freephone 0800 435702, quoting code F. The Gas Consumers Council also offers advice on 0645 060708.

HULTON

Bygone era: lack of choice in gas supply is a thing of the past

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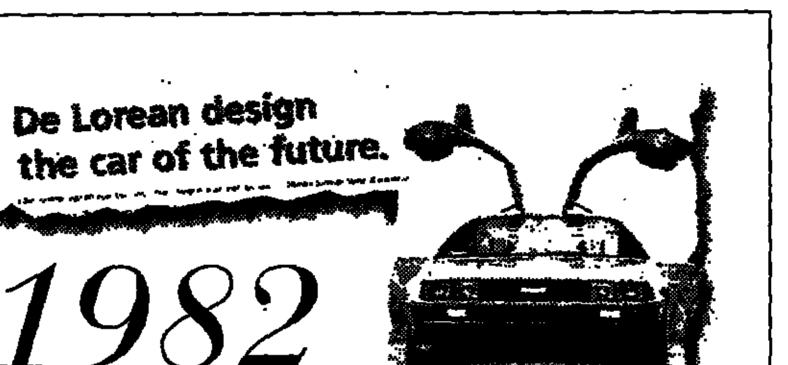

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and **James Kitchenham** meets a man who brought gas contracts down to earth

Gas is no laughing matter

John Freake, a retired oil company geologist from Sussex, failed to see the funny side of British Gas's fixed-price "take-or-pay" contracts fiasco for which it expected its customers to pay.

So he was delighted when Kent and Sussex were chosen as early areas for competitive gas supply distributors under the deregulation of the industry. But then his problems started.

"I wanted to do an analysis of the different packages offered by the competing companies, but some of them were coy to the point of secrecy about what they were offering and it was almost impossible to get information from some companies.

"I originally contacted Ofgas, the regulator, to get the names of the companies and then began telephoning them. Some of them took three or four calls to get a response and some still had not sent their information and contracts a month after I originally contacted them. It seemed a strange way to win customers."

Having had considerable experience of constructing and using databases in the oil industry, when he had most of the information from the competing companies to hand, he set up a database on his home computer.

His intention was to make an analysis to find the best supplier on the basis of tariff price, standing charge and method of payment.

He decided to exclude appliance maintenance costs as he feels it is cheaper to use an independent engineer than to have a British Gas or similar service contract.

Likewise he dismissed store voucher offers and other tiny inducements as "an irrelevance". But again he hit problems trying to compare like-with-like for each company against his present British Gas contract.

"One company did not give details of its discounts at all. It simply had a box to tick on the contract if you were interested in a discount. I rang up to find out about the further discount and no one could tell me anything about it."

Eventually, of the 11 companies on whose figures he could do a reasonable analysis, Mr Freake found that Scottish Power and SWEBGas gave the greatest savings over British Gas at 27 per cent and 23.74 per cent respectively.

This was calculated using the cheapest option available — a monthly direct debit secured a 4 per cent discount, or a lower tariff rate. Most contracts are rolling ones and companies offer fixed terms.

He concluded: "Some of these offers are not as transparent as they could be, I think Ofgas could have insisted that contracts were offered on a standardised basis so that consumers could make easy direct comparisons between companies. Whichever company you choose, do read the supply contract carefully."

ANDREW HASSON

John Freake set up his own database to try to make sense of competing gas contracts

HOW THE COMPETITORS COMPARE WITH BRITISH GAS

Company name	Saving (%) on British Gas	Tariff per kw/hour	Standing charge per year
Scottish Power	27	1.085	£36.46
SWEBGas	23.74	1.177	£0.00
British Fuels Gas	20.49	1.25	£0.00
Southern Electric	20.33	1.20	£30.60
Eastern Natural Gas	19.52	1.212	£31.02
Texaco & Calor Gas	19.06	1.254	£39.95
Amerada	17.64	1.214	£47.00
Northern Electric	16.69	1.26	£28.98
London Total Energy	14.12	1.3	£29.20
Beacon Gas	11.92	1.36	£26.00
British Gas Trading	0	1.52	£38.34

Centrica moves dynamically — down

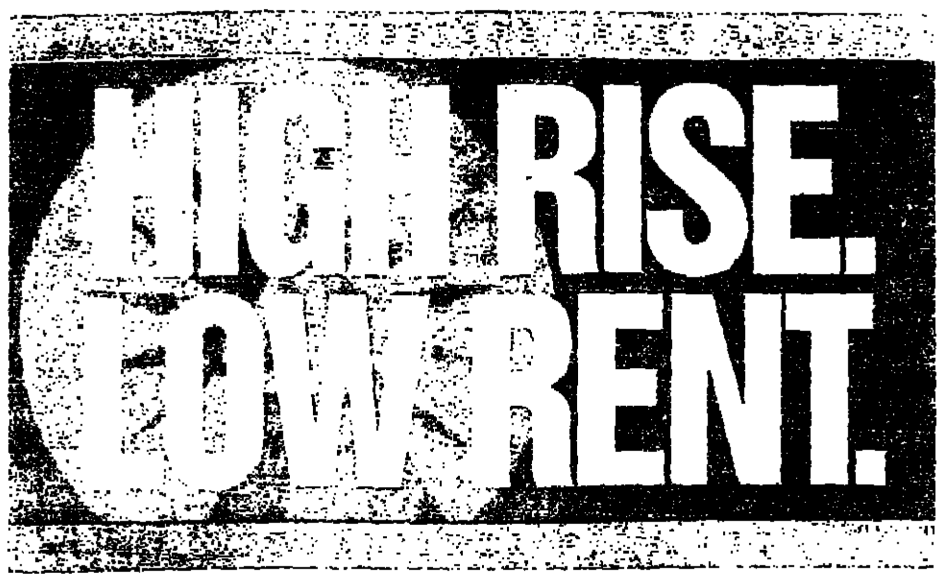
About £250,000 was spent by British Gas last year on a rebranding exercise for the two companies that were to emerge from its planned demerger. The sum bought two logos and two names — BG and Centrica. The provenance of the former is easy to guess; the latter, though, was dreamt up to signify "quickly moving and dynamic". The appropriateness of the rebranding was felt by former British Gas shareholders this week as the shares of the newly demerged Centrica move quickly and dynamically down.

British Gas assets are now divided into BG plc, the gas supply and pipeline business, and Centrica, the retail side. Centrica is also laden with the "take or pay" contracts and the Morecambe Bay gas field. These two factors continue to cast a shadow over the future performance of the company, as analysts in the gas market are not entirely clear what their impact will be. On the first day of trading, a total of 54.5 million Centrica shares changed hands and the price fell by 13.5 per cent to 65¼p while 20 million BG shares changed hands lifting the price by 2½p to 174½p.

Yesterday the shares were 68½p and 175½p, respectively. This compares with the share price of the merged British Gas, at the end of last week, of 247½p. This represents a net loss to the estimated 1.7 million small shareholders in British Gas, Sids, of 1 per cent.

The price of Centrica was not helped by a pronouncement from Merrill Lynch, the broker, that the shares could be worth as little as 40p, though a trading range of 40p to 80p is expected. Many financial advisers advise clients to sell Centrica. The stock may be very volatile and no dividend is likely in the foreseeable future. Mathew Orr, of Killik & Co, the broker, said: "This is not the type of company many small investors thought they were buying when they invested in British Gas." BG plc, the biggest part of the company, currently yields 7.1 per cent, high in comparison with other utilities. Some advisers advocate holding BG shares for the dividend alone. But these may be cut in future, as it is being examined by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, who wants greater competition. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is also looking at pricing issues.

CAROLINE MERRELL



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Gavin Lumsden on how to increase wealth with a clear conscience

Investors in search of a piece of the ethical action

Ethics have come out of the theology class and into the real world. Everyone, it seems, wants a piece of the action. Swampy, the anti-roads protester, has captured the nation's heart with his burrowing antics in Devon. Meanwhile, Diana, Princess of Wales, continues to command public respect with her campaign against Britain's export of landmines.

Increasingly, investors, too, are demanding that their money is used ethically. In addition to growing their wealth, they want to do some good in the world in the process. For many this means saying no to companies that harm the environment or contribute to the global war machine, including the manufacture of armaments and landmines.

Fortunately, there are up to 20 ethical and ecological unit trusts which have developed a decent track record in this kind of caring investment. These include Abtrust Ethical, Clerical Medical Evergreen and Eagle Star Environmental Opportunities. Most are available as Peps, which means that you can enjoy tax-free growth as well as a clear conscience.

Ethical unit trusts use a combination of negative criteria to screen out unsuitable stocks. All of them, for instance, avoid companies making the bulk of their profits from tobacco, alcohol and pornography, reflecting the religious origins of ethical investment. To this most add environmental concerns to their list, frequently banning investments in nuclear energy. Animal testing and oppressive regimes are also blacklisted.

CIS, the Co-op's insurance arm, runs one of the biggest ethical unit trusts. It finds that people often invest in CIS Environ on behalf of their children.

David Mott, CIS spokesman, said: "There is a 'feel-good' factor to investing in ethical funds. Many people say they want to invest in their children's future financially, but then ask themselves what kind of world are they going to be living in? Ethical investment works on both fronts, providing a good return and attempting to solve some of the problems we have today."

JOHN STILLWELL

Diana, Princess of Wales, has pricked the public conscience

As a result of this pressure, funds such as Friends Provident Stewardship, Jupiter Ecology, NPI Global Care and Credit Suisse Fellowship are going out of their way to promote ethical businesses. These funds use positive criteria to select companies in conservation, pollution control and the manufacture of safety equipment, for instance.

Employment conditions are also on the agenda for Stephanie Howard, fund manager of the Credit Suisse fund. "We also look for companies with a sympathetic approach to their employees, and particularly how they fit in with the local community," she said. "Many of our investments are in small companies with high research-and-development budgets. Often they are the biggest employer in the area."

This approach works well with small companies but can be problematic with larger organisations, which can have unethical operations alongside more worthy sides of the business.

For instance, few ethical funds would invest in large pharmaceutical companies which test products on animals, but they may happily focus on smaller biotechnology companies. On average, ethical funds are invested in only 30 per cent of companies on the FT-SE 100 index.

Alan Perkins, fund manager of Family Assurance's United Charities Ethical Fund, which has just been Pepped, says new issues and demergers are hard work for the ethical manager, who has to examine the company thoroughly before it lists.

Because of the complexity, ethical funds turn to organisations such as the Ethical Investment Research Service (Eiris) in London and the Manchester Business School to help them to compile a list of eligible investments.

These organisations regularly survey companies' attitudes and business practices. If you are interested in ethical investment Eiris also provides a list of independent financial advisers who specialise in the ethical arena. Further information is available from Eiris on 0171-735 1351.

However, all this research does result in extra charges. Although NPI and Jupiter have cut initial charges to 4.5 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, the average for the sector remains 5 per cent, around 2 per cent higher than many conventional alternatives. Annual charges tend to be more than 1.5 per cent, higher than the industry average.

Of course, as with all investments, performance, not charges, is the key. Fortunately, ethical investors do not have to pay for their conscience. Over the past five years only Clerical Medical Evergreen has obviously underperformed its peers and the FT-SE 100. Funds such as Eagle Star Environmental Opportunities, Allchurches Amity and City Financial/Acorn Ethical have broadly matched the £1,675 return that a £1,000 investment on the FT-SE 100 index would have given you.

Top of the pile is Credit Suisse Fellowship, which grew an impressive 134 per cent, turning £1,000 into £2,339, closely followed by Framlington Health with a return of £2,222. The latter, however, is not stricly an ethical fund, although it bears all the hallmarks of one by focusing on the US biotechnology sector. Both funds also get high ratings from the Allenbridge Group, which judges funds on consistency as well as overall performance.

Holden Meehan, an IFA firm in London, publishes a free guide to ethical funds. Telephone 0171-404 6442.

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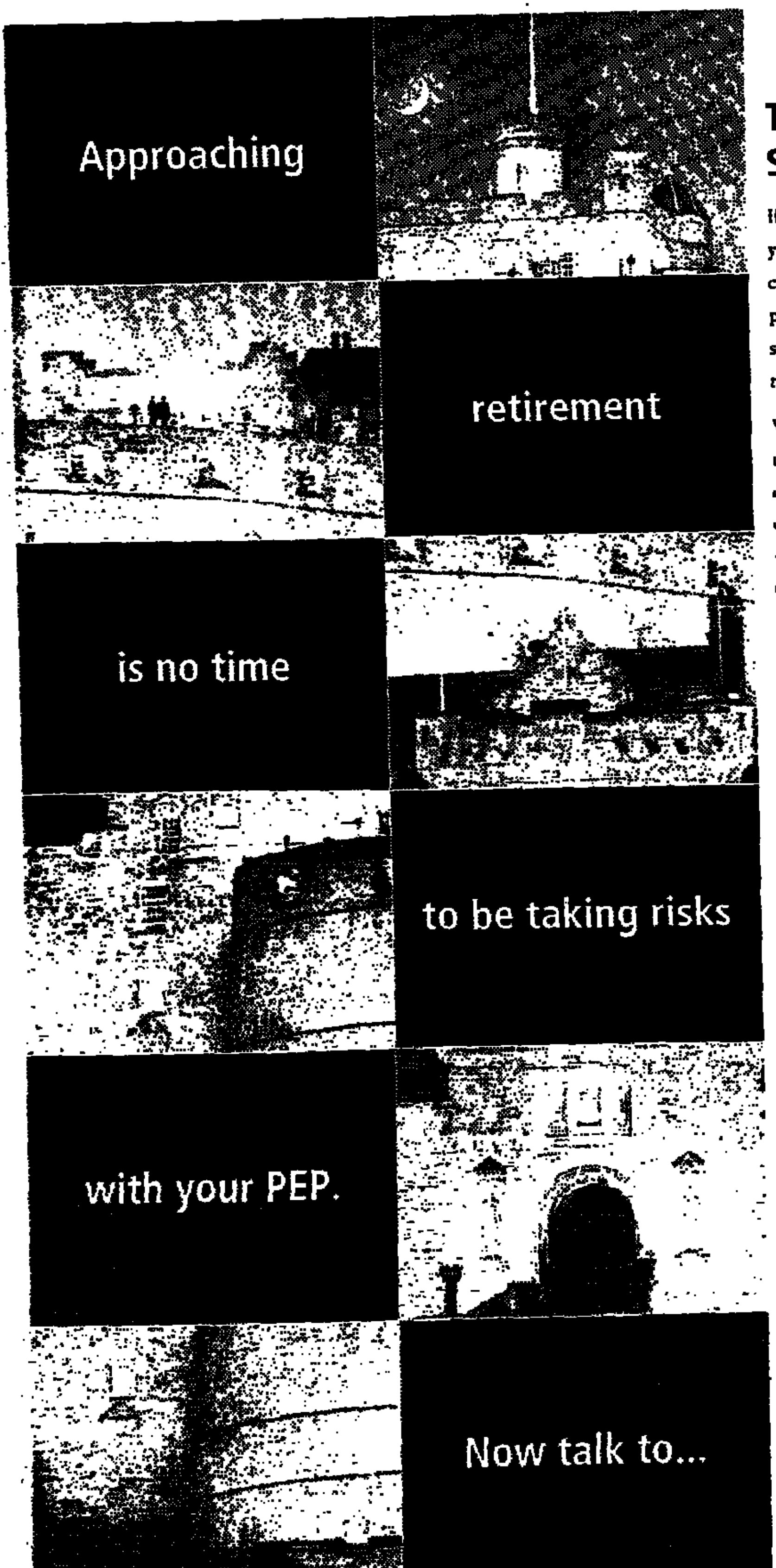

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Caroline Merrell on the plan to stop shoppers from losing interest

Sainsbury banks on new services

The chore of doing the weekly shopping will take a new twist in the coming months as three of the United Kingdom's biggest supermarkets begin to roll out banking services for their customers. Millions of people will now have access to credit cards and savings accounts which will give them discounts off their weekly shopping bills.

J Sainsbury this week unveiled its plan to offer banking services to its ten million customers via a joint venture with the Bank of Scotland. Sainsbury is spending around £30 million on the bank, through which it hopes to encourage greater customer loyalty and reverse its ailing fortunes. Sainsbury has begun to lose market share to Tesco and Safeway, and earlier this year was forced to issue a profit warning — an action that hit the share price and cut its market capitalisation by £375 million.

Sainsbury cited increased competition with the other supermarkets as the cause of the downgrade in profits from £710 million to £640 million for 1996 to 1997. Four million of this decrease was attributed to the launch of the bank, while a further £10 million reduction was attributed to the extra costs of its Reward loyalty card — a scheme that generates discounts for customers.

Sainsbury's Bank will offer a choice of two credit cards and two savings accounts. The credit cards can be used to build up reward points that can generate discounts on the weekly shopping bill, while the instant access saver account offers a market-leading interest rate of 5.75 per cent.

The other account, the monthly Christmas saving account, offers an interest rate of 2.5 per cent, plus an annual 3 per cent bonus if no money is withdrawn before the end of the year.

The 5.75 per cent interest compares with rates of between 0.75 and 3.15 per cent offered by Barclays, 0.5 and 3.25 per cent offered by Halifax, and 2 and 3.23 per cent offered by Midland.

Kevin McCarten, Sainsbury's marketing director, said: "We're pleased to be the first supermarket to open a bank and offer our customers choice and flexibility."

The bank will be available initially in 244 stores, including 115 Sainsbury stores, five Savacentres and 124 Homebase stores.

The banking services come complete with a fiendishly complicated reward point system. Each £1 spent at Sainsbury's, Savacentre or Homebase using one of the two credit cards and Sainsbury's reward card will generate two points. Every £1 spent on credit cards at any other retailer will generate half a reward point.

With 250 points you can claim a £2.50 discount voucher, which means customers could benefit from a 1 to 2 per cent discount on their shopping bills. Sainsbury is also offering to give Air Miles in exchange for points generated through spending at its stores. Reward points generated through spending at other outlets will not qualify to be swapped for Air Miles.

Saving in the Christmas account can also bring benefits in terms of reward points. The 2.5 per cent interest and the 3 per cent bonus can be waived in favour of the points — a saving of £40 per month will generate 376 reward points in one year, plus 451 bonus points, representing a saving of £8.70 on groceries.

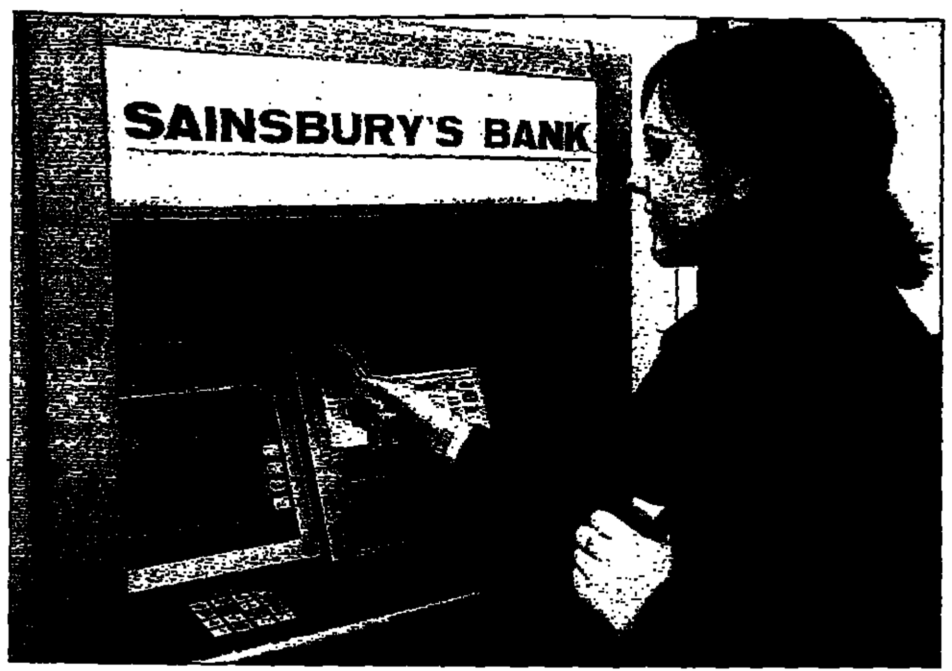
Sainsbury's Bank does not offer overdrafts, nor does it have any intention of doing so. A spokeswoman said: "This is a savings account, not a current account."

Sainsbury's Gold Visa card has an annual fee of £25 and an APR of 14.7 per cent, while the Classic Visa card has a £10 fee and an APR of 18.5 per cent. The annual fee is waived for the first year. The lowest APRs on the market are from RBS Advanta and the People's Bank of Connecticut, at 11.9 per cent and 14.4 per cent respectively.

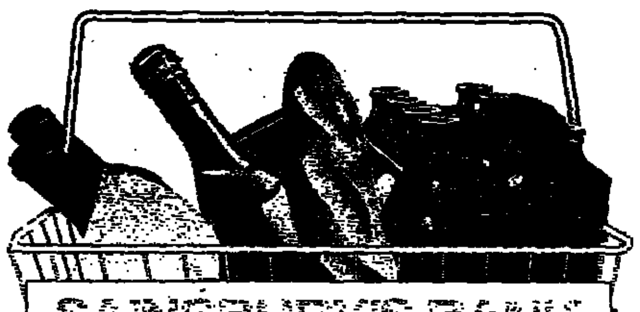
Offerings from the other stores do not have quite the same range. Safeway, for instance, is keen to emphasise that it is not launching a bank. The store is offering a savings account in conjunction with Abbey National — the account offers 5 per cent interest and reward points for spending. Safeway may offer a fuller banking service at a later date.

Tesco, on the other hand, chose St Valentine's Day to abandon its link with NatWest and join forces with the Royal Bank of Scotland to set up a joint venture offering financial services. This store already offers Clubcard Plus, a savings account offering 5.5 per cent interest.

Tesco plans to offer a credit card in the summer and add additional products, including savings accounts and personal insurance, at a later date.



Supermarket first: the new Sainsbury's Bank will be available initially in 244 stores



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Reward points given for every £1 spent at Sainsburys and Savacentre and also for purchase at other outlets. Reward points for those who transfer balances from other cards

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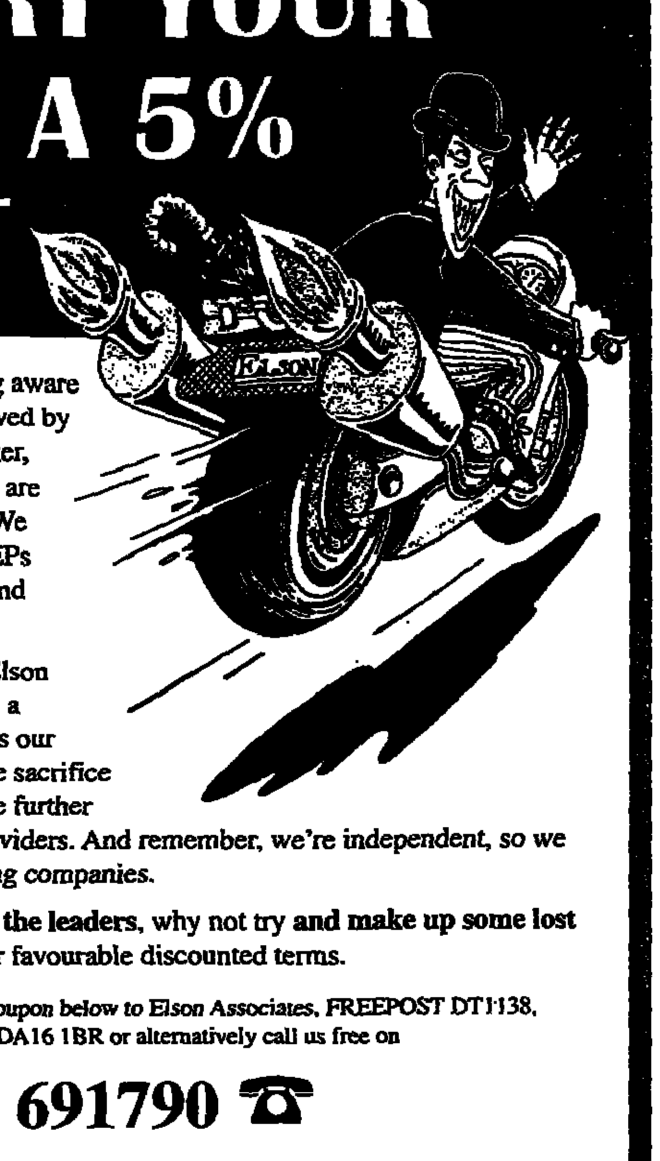

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Halifax Liquid Gold	2.45%	2.45%	2.65%	2.65%	2.95%	2.95%	3.25%	3.25%
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Source: Moneyfacts 18th February 1997

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Take a ten-year view when assessing funds, says **Gavin Lumsden**

Sitting pretty: you can make sure that your investments stay in good shape by holding regular "beauty parades"

Which is most trustworthy?

TRUST WATCH

For most first-time equity investors choosing pooled funds, such as unit trusts and investment trusts, investing in the UK is the natural step. But how have these funds performed in the long term?

Fund managers often quote *their five-year performances*, but ten-year periods are more useful because consistent performers are more likely to come out on top. A longer time period also enables you to judge how funds have coped with adverse market conditions as well as the good times.

A ten-year view also helps to put stock market falls into perspective, such as the 400-point drop in the FT-SE All-Share after Black Monday in October 1987. The wave of forced selling from distressed investors even forced some fund managers temporarily to suspend their unit trusts.

Since then the index has *suffered three major falls as the* economy struggled through a recession and reacted badly to *the first increase in US interest* rates in February 1994. Despite this the overall direction has been upwards, and in the past two years a bull run has taken it to record levels.

Propelled by this economic momentum, all but two of the 353 funds investing in the UK have made money for their holders over ten years. However, there is a wide disparity of returns and investors should review their funds regularly.

Fewer than half of the UK-focused unit trusts have a ten-year track record, demonstrating the frenetic pace at which investment funds have developed. Of the 305 that do, Newton Income has triumphed. Had you invested £1,000 in this fund in January 1987 and reinvested all the income, you would have £4,814.12 today. By contrast, investors in Evermore Recovery would have only £1,242.86. Nevertheless, 283 unit trusts would have doubled your money.

However, only 10 per cent of these UK unit trusts actually beat the All-Share index in total returns. According to Micropal, the statistics provider, the index would have turned the £1,000 into £3,267.53 over the past ten years, a feat which only 28 funds were able to beat.

Doesn't this illustrate the *incompetence of fund managers* in the City? Shouldn't we switch to tracker funds, which *dispense with the stock-picking* skills of fund managers by buying everything on the index? Not necessarily, says Chris Poll, head of Micropal. He points out that the index is only a guide and does not include the cost of dealing in shares.

None of the unit trusts tracking the All-Share actually has a ten-year record, but if they did their result would likely be much lower than the index. It is impossible for trackers to match the index precisely, and all have a small tracking error. More importantly, what trackers save on fund managers' wages they pay back in the increased expenses of dealing in every available stock.

The average unit trust charges investors between 1.25 *per cent and 1.5 per cent of their* holdings a year, which is equivalent to around 18 per cent over ten years. If you subtract this from the All-Share return you get less than £2,680. *Using this figure the number of* "successful" unit trusts quadruples to 120. This still leaves 185 funds in the dust.

Although investment trusts charge less in annual management fees, it is worthwhile comparing them against the figures for unit trusts. Overall, *investment trusts provide higher* returns but with higher risks. Some 15 of the 48 *investment trusts investing in the UK* with a ten-year track record returned more than £2,680, *around three times the proportion* of unit trusts, with 26 exceeding the costed All-Share figure. 34 more than doubled the £1,000 initial invesment.

The top performer was Candover which returned £10,861.83 on the £1,000 investment. However, comparison with the All-Share is unfair as this is a high-risk venture capital fund investing in unlisted companies outside the index.

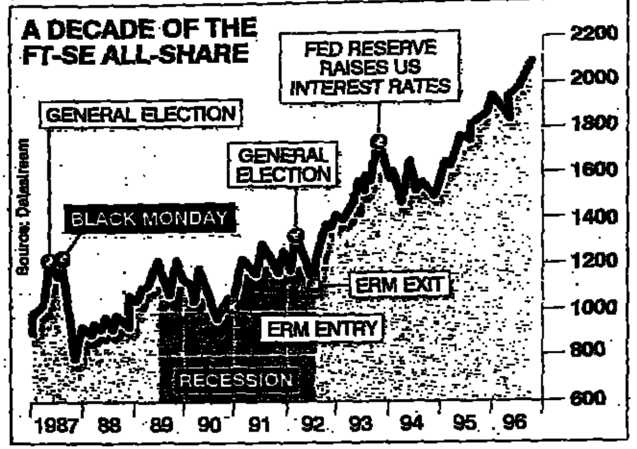
However, at the bottom of the table are the unfortunate capital shareholders of Jove, a split capital trust, who have seen their investment plummet to just £259.74.

Nigel Thomas, fund manager of the second-placed Pembroke Growth unit trust, says the search for portfolio diversity leads many managers to *underperform the index*. Many fund managers, like Mr Thomas, would be reluctant to hold BP and Shell together even if doing this reflected the make-up of the index.

Investors are paying fund managers to get their bets right. *Jonathan Fry*, investment director of Premier Fund Managers in Guildford, says it is no good letting *them off the hook*. He advises investors to copy the professionals.

He says: "Look at what the pension funds do, they hold triannual beauty parades and if the performance has not been up to scratch they change the manager or put him on 12 months' notice.

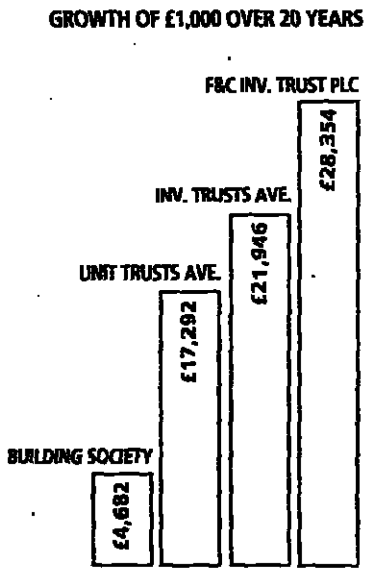
"That is what private investors have *to do. Too many take* their pension or choose a unit trust and never review how it is performing."



HOW THEY PERFORMED

Fund	Return on £1000 offer to bid, net income reinvested	Rank
Unit trusts		
Newton Income	£4,814.12	1
Pembroke Growth	£4,593.07	2
Guinness Flight Equity Inc	£3,896.96	3
Fidelity Special Situations	£3,872.12	4
Credit Suisse Smaller Cos	£3,863.37	5
Baring UK Smaller Cos	£1,588.89	301
Hambros Smaller Cos	£1,525.58	302
Equitable Special Sits	£1,388.23	303
Allied Dunbar Second Smaller Companies	£1,289.31	304
Evermore Recovery	£1,242.86	305
Investment trusts	**mid to mid, net income reinvested**	**Rank**
Candover	£10,861.83	1
Rights & Issues - Income	£7,294.43	2
Rights & Issues - Capital	£5,426.46	3
Kleinwort Dev Fund	£5,133.21	4
Value and Income	£4,621.34	5
Govett Strategic	£1,586.58	43
Framlington Dual - Income	£1,514.68	44
Danae Warrants	£1,357.14	45
Fram I&C - Capital	£1,100.72	46
Trust of Property Shares	£984.41	47
Jove - Capital (2004)	£259.74	48

Source: Micropal



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Karen Zagor on what investors should do when markets are high

Play safe for a steady income

Investors are warned regularly that *trying to time* stock market investments is a fool's game. After all, anyone who listened to the stock market bears and left their money in the building society last year would have missed out on one of the great bull runs of all time. But for many *would-be investors, the* rash of stock market record highs can lead to a real dilemma.

When markets are exceedingly high, there is a very real danger that they will plummet. Anyone able to take a 20-year view of the stock market should be able to ride out any storm. *but investors* near retirement do not have that luxury.

At the same, those *near* retirement may be most in need of a way of boosting their income, and equity investments are often the best way to supplement a pension and compensate for a lost salary.

Most advisers would agree that anyone who cannot take a three-year or four-year view on their investment should steer clear of stocks. But even with markets at record levels, anyone who can take a longer-term view should probably have some *equities in their* portfolio.

Mark Bolland, of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser, says: "I am a bear, but it is riskier to be out of the market than in. *The problem is,* you could wait six months anticipating a crash and the *market could* hold its own.

"With the market so high, it makes sense to dribble your money in, either *in monthly or quarterly* instalments, and to make sure you have a good *investment mix with some* exposure to tracker funds, equity funds, individual stocks and preference shares to get the income you need. But you should always have a *chunk of cash on hand to help* out if there is a market wobble."

How you structure your investments will depend largely on your income needs. If you have £250,000 to invest, *perhaps from the sale of your* family home, and you need an *extra £500 a month, you could* generate the income by leaving the money in the bank.

Other relatively safe income-generating options include gilts, which are currently yielding about 7.5 *per cent and preference funds,* which yield about 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent. But there will be some capital erosion with these investments, and the best place to compensate for that depreciation is in the *stock market.*

Jonathan Gumpel, of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, the independent financial adviser, says: "If you want complete security, I would advise stick*ing the money in the building* society. But for anyone who is 55 and looking for income over the next 20 years, I would probably advise being invested with a proportion of their funds perhaps set up as a quarterly savings plan to phase in the money.

"*For people coming to us* with cash, we would generally advise only being 45 per cent invested, then phasing in the other 55 per cent over a period of years. We would accelerate phasing the money in if there *was a market fall.*"

Mr Gumpel believes that investment trusts are good value at the moment for investors looking for income because the prices already reflect concern about the high markets and a *number of investment* trusts are trading at a discount *to their net assets.*

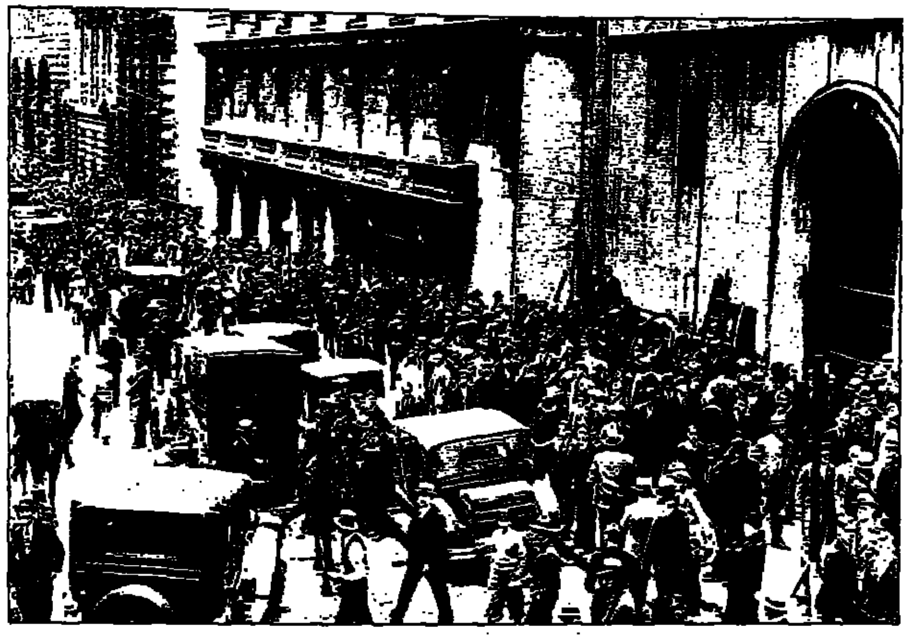
He expects the discounts to narrow eventually, so investors should be able to profit from the narrowing, as well as *receiving income from the* investment.

"I would think a combination of UK high-interest funds such as Invesco Convertible, plus Scottish Mortgage for an element of growth and something like Murray International, which is wholly *international, to take advan*tage of the strong pound at the moment would be a good mix," Mr Gumpel says.

Nervous income investors can take heart from the knowledge that, at a time of high markets, they are in a stronger position than those investing for capital growth.

With the recession behind us, we are *not in a period where* companies are cutting their dividends, so even if the market crashes there should be a continuing stream of income.

So if you invest in solid companies with a good business and a good cashflow, then you should continue to receive income, *in the form of dividends,* even if the share price *dips. And there is always the* possibility that the share price will have recovered or even improved by the time you decide to sell.



TO PROTECT investors against a 1929-style stock market crash, Brooks Macdonald Gayer is recommending the Close Escalator *unit trusts* from Close Fund Management.

The 100 fund provides complete capital *protection if the market falls,* while allowing investors to benefit from a portion of any rise in *the FT-SE* 100 index. The 95 fund gives greater exposure to stock market gains while limiting losses to 5 per cent of capital. Unlike most guaranteed funds, there is no lock-in period and the funds are unit trusts and as such taxed as capital gains and not income. Minimum investment is £1,000, *or £100 per month. Readers of The Times* can buy the funds at a 2 per cent discount until March 20 through Brooks Macdonald Gayer (0171 499 6424).

Guinnesss Flight offers a frontier punt

For *investors who don't have sleep*less nights worrying where their money is going, the death this week of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, provides an excellent opportunity to get into the world's most exciting emerging market.

Helped by the free market reforms which Deng introduced in 1978, China has been repeating the extraordinary economic miracle of nearby Japan and Taiwan *and is forecast to grow 10* per cent a year until the year 2000. With nearly *a quarter of the world's popula*tion, the country is poised to become the economic superpower of the 21st century, in much the same way that the US did in the 20th. The integration of Hong Kong in July is likely to turn out to be a reverse takeover in which the capitalist ethos of the tiny colony controls the giant hinterland beyond it. Certainly, that is the hope of Guinness Flight which today launches its Hong Kong and China unit trust. The company launched an offshore China fund a year ago which *has achieved nearly 30 per* cent growth for sterling investors.

Howard Flight, Guinness Flight *managing director,* says political uncertainty means Hong Kong and China are undervalued compared with the US and UK. With Deng's successor, Jiang Zemin, still to consolidate his position and the handover of Hong Kong imminent, this uncertainty is bound to persist.

However, there are other reasons for giving China a wide berth. While its burgeoning middle class will become more *vocal for political* freedom, the army that perpetrated the Tiananmen *Square massacre is still ready to* back the Communist Party. Growing eco*nomic inequality* is also causing *enor*mous pressures in China's regions, with *some pundits* predicting a break-up of the country.

Investing in a "frontier" market is only for the intrepid.

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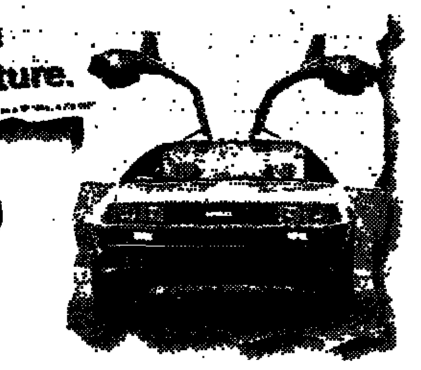

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*SOURCE: HINDSIGHT FROM HSW. OFFER TO BID WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED TO 31.12.96. OVER 5 YEARS PROLIFIC'S FAR EASTERN UNIT TRUST WAS 2ND QUARTILE, SPECIAL SITUATIONS UNIT TRUST WAS 3RD QUARTILE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIT TRUST WAS 1ST QUARTILE. £1,000 INVESTED 5 YEARS AGO WOULD BE WORTH £1,799, £1808 AND £3,827 RESPECTIVELY. REGULAR SAVINGS OF £50 PER MONTH OVER 5 YEARS WOULD BE WORTH £3,415, £4,306 AND £5,894 RESPECTIVELY. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET BACK THE FULL AMOUNT ORIGINALLY INVESTED. EXCHANGE RATES MAY CAUSE THE VALUE OF UNDERLYING INVESTMENTS TO GO UP OR DOWN. THE TAX TREATMENT OF PEPS MAY BE ALTERED BY FUTURE LEGISLATION. ISSUED BY PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED REGULATED BY IMRO AND THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND A MEMBER OF AUTIF. †DISCOUNT APPLIES TO ALL LUMP SUM UNIT TRUST INVESTMENTS MADE BEFORE 11AM ON TUESDAY 18.3.97

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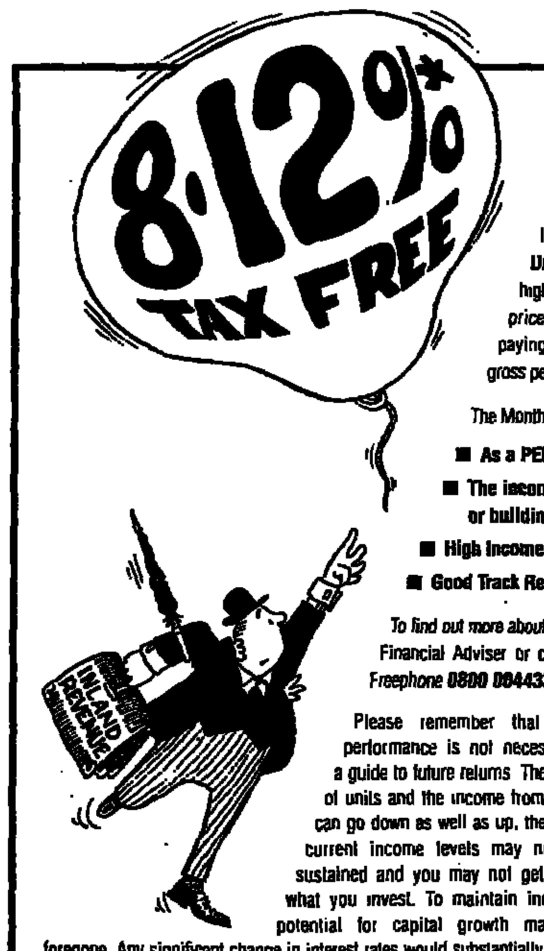

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Plan your strategy for long-term care

Long-term care should not be treated in financial isolation but should form part of a full financial planning strategy, according to a new guide published by the David Aaron Partnership.

With government benefits likely to be reduced for the elderly, most people will have to supplement the costs of care from their own investments or income. The guide explains the various types of insurance available, how to maximise savings and how to boost pension income to guarantee a comfortable retirement.

The guide also details the Government's proposals for the future. For a copy of *Long Term Care for the Elderly*, write to the David Aaron Partnership, Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SD. Enclose a cheque for £2.

■ A guide to Venture Capital Trust tax issues has been produced by Northern Venture Managers. *Tax Questions & Answers* provides information on initial investments, income tax exemption for dividends, and capital gains tax deferral. The booklet is based on the questions investors and their advisers most often ask Northern Venture Managers about VCTs. *Call 0800 163 201.*

■ Nationwide Building Society has launched a two-year fixed-rate bond offering a return of 7 per cent gross per annum. Minimum investment is £1,000. No access to money invested in the bond is allowed in the first year. The bond can be closed in the second year at a loss of 180 days' interest. Call 0800 302010.

Nationwide is also running a Savings Challenge to all investors. The society believes that it can beat the rates of most top financial organisations and offer a better savings deal. *For further information*, call 0500 302010.

■ *Investment trusts* can provide a cost-effective alternative to the traditional endowment method of paying off a mortgage, according to a factsheet from the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC). Topics covered in the free guide include the mortgage market and interest rates, how to repay a mortgage using investment trusts and how to monitor your investment. Call 0171 431 5222.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury' Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	5.75	Yly
Buckinghamshire BS 01494 873064	Chiltern Gold	Postal	£5,000	5.80	½Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	Yly
Northen Rock BS *0500 505000*	*Select 60*	*60 day p*	*£10,000*	*6.50*	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0500 070707	First Class 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.55	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	*Fxd + feeder a/c*	*5 year*	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 626 0879	Prem + feeder a/c	5 year	£9,000	7.20	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£2,500	7.00	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		*5 year*	£3,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
RBS *Advanta* 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.797%N	9.90%N	Nil

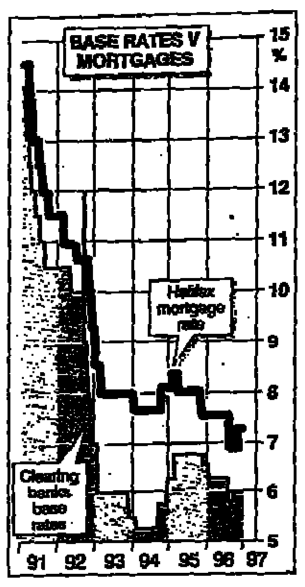
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

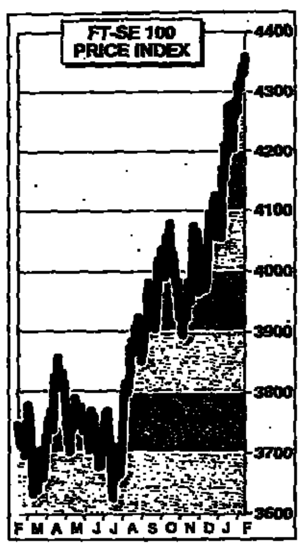
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£112.66	£102.59
Lombard Direct 0800 215000	13.90%A	£120.02	£101.20
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.78	£101.45

Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*₆	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*₆	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond₄	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†₂₅	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds₃	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†₂	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3₃	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000₅	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free. ³Rates gross and vble ₄Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁵0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁶£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁷Taxable but cred in full. ⁸£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,636	£10,747	£12,249
Canada Lf ....Level	£ 9,647	£10,728	£12,203
Generali ....Level	£ 9,624	*£10,666*	*£12,021*
Prudential........Level	£ 9,603	£10,638	£12,050
Royal Sun All ....Level	£ 9,429	£10,573	£12,122

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£8,948	£ 9,757	£10,943
Prudential ....Level	£8,943	£ 9,701	£10,806
Sun Life ....Level	£8,825	£ 9,620	£10,779
Norwich Union........Level	£8,838	£ 9,598	£10,708
Generali ....Level	£8,729	£ 9,588	£10,773

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada Life ....Level	£8,520	£9,140	£10,020
Prudential ....Level	£8,503	£9,098	£ 9,931
Sun Life ....Level	£8,438	£9,064	£ 9,946
Generali ....Level	£8,400	£9,032	£ 9,900
Stalwart * ....Level	£8,318	£9,011	£ 9,794

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 8393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at February, 20, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	Financial Assur	5.30
	10,000	AIG Life	5.40
	20,000	AIG Life	5.55
	50,000	Financial Assur	5.65
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.90
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	5.80
	20,000	AIG Life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.05
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.55
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.50

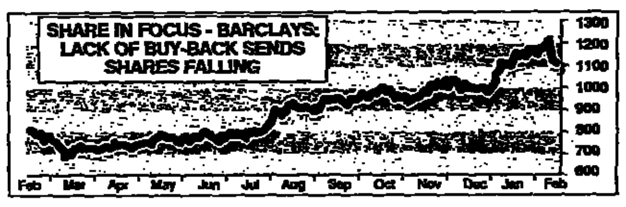
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	109.47	8.547	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	*134.26*	*8.658*	*100.13*	*10,000*
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	150.06	8.663	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	155.25	8.615	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	150.06	8.663	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	141.17	8.550	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	132.37	8.876	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	105.33	8.307	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	140.33	8.183	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	162.24	8.398	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	156.15	8.566	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	126.91	8.446	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	147.99	8.531	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	149.16	8.464	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	150.34	8.564	*100.48*	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	111.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	*8.48750%*	*101.50*	*100.00*	*1,000*

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90	3% disc-1.3.98+ 3% cashback
Birm Mid Mort SVS *01344 394000*	3.21	£100k+	75	4% disc-31.8.97 *2% disc-28.2.99*
Nationwide 0800 302010	3.09	to £500k	75	3.90% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 months
Midland 0800 494999	3.99	£100k+	80	3% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% disc-6mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Mansfield 01246 202055	*0.50*	£25-250k	*90*	6.49% disc-6mth 1.99%- 6m,0.99%1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Midland Bank 0800 494999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West *0800 119955*	3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount *for 12 months*
Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland *01189 510100*	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE *Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE* 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	544.80	576.60	+ 1.80	...
UK Equity	730.80	773.40	+ 0.50	...
Property	426.90	451.80	+ 4.30	...
Fixed Interest	375.30	397.20	+ 4.00	...
Money	271.70	287.60	+ 0.30	...
International	432.30	457.50	+ 2.80	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	201.80	212.50	+ 1.50	...
Ethical S4	172.90	182.00	- 0.10	...
International S4	225.10	237.00	+ 1.40	...
Protected Gth S4	125.40	132.10	+ 0.40	...
Asian Pacific	220.20	231.80	+ 1.70	...
European S4	228.00	240.10	- 1.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	403.50	424.80	+ 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	286.90	302.10	- 0.10	...
Man Ser 4	815.20	858.20	+ 1.40	...
Conv Ser 4	356.90	375.70	+ 2.10	...
Money Ser 4	356.50	375.30	+ 2.10	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	409.30	430.90	+ 0.20	...
American Ser 4	717.70	755.50	- 3.40	...
High Inc Ser 4	867.80	913.50	- 1.10	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	230.70	249.20	- 0.60	...
Japan Ser 4	286.00	301.10	+ 3.30	...
ALBANY LIFE *3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ* 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2061.20	2169.70	+ 4.10	...
European Fd Acc	501.80	528.20	- 0.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	587.10	618.00	- 0.80	...
Gtd Money Acc	363.20	382.30	+ 0.20	...
Intl Managed Acc	761.00	801.00	+ 7.10	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	376.00	395.70	...	...
Japan Fund	223.50	235.20	+ 0.40	...
N American Acc	456.40	480.40	- 3.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	482.60	507.00	+ 0.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	267.90	283.40	+ 2.70	...
Euro Opportunity	287.60	304.30	- 5.90	...
North Amer Opp	257.80	272.70	- 2.00	...
Far East Opp	211.50	223.80	+ 2.20	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	176.80	186.20	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	211.80	224.10	- 1.80	...
Fixed Int	236.90	250.60	- 0.20	...
Cash	172.20	182.10	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	286.60	303.30	+ 4.30	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	436.80	459.80	+ 2.00	...
UK Equity	810.40	853.10	+ 5.40	...
Property	292.30	307.70	+ 0.20	...
Money Market	272.90	287.30	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	344.10	362.30	- 0.20	...
Japan	295.20	310.80	- 1.10	...
North America	229.40	241.50	- 4.50	...
International	442.90	466.30	+ 3.50	...
European	367.80	387.20	-10.80	...
Far East	156.60	164.90	- 0.50	...
CANADA LIFE 26 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	282.80	...	...	...
Managed	412.60	434.40	+ 1.20	...
Property	269.00	283.20	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	279.70	294.50	+ 0.40	...
Equity	498.10	524.40	- 0.30	...
Cash	232.40	244.70	+ 0.10	...
CLife Euro Mntd	477.60	502.80	- 0.80	...
CLife Intl Fd	395.60	416.50	+ 5.40	...
Managed Fund	880.90	927.30	+ 2.50	...
Property Fund	563.40	593.00	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund	1229.40	1294.10	- 0.80	...
Gilt Edged Fd	721.50	759.50	- 0.80	...
Deposit Fund	361.00	380.00	+ 0.60	...
Investment Fd	537.30	564.20	- 4.70	...
International	629.30	662.90	+ 8.70	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) ‡	108.70	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	297.60	313.30	+ 1.30	...
Managed S1	296.40	312.00	+ 1.20	...
Adventurous S1	234.80	247.20	+ 1.50	...
Managed (2)	199.40	209.90	+ 0.80	...
Pension Funds -				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	110.80	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	107.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	118.70	...	+ 0.60	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	120.00	...	+ 0.70	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	110.70	...	+ 0.90	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	108.50	...	+ 0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	380.30	394.00	+ 1.40	0.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	388.90	409.40	- 1.00	...
UK Equity	540.40	568.90	- 1.30	...
Stewardship	488.60	514.40	- 1.40	...
Overseas Equity	356.60	375.40	+ 1.50	...
North American	218.50	230.00	- 1.30	...
Pacific Basin	179.50	189.00	+ 3.50	...
European	332.50	350.10	- 0.80	...
Property	186.70	196.60	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	280.70	295.50	- 0.10	...
Index Linked	191.90	202.00	- 0.40	...
Cash	218.70	230.30	- 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	620.00	652.60	+ 1.30	...
Managed	862.90	908.30	+ 1.70	...
Deposit	373.60	393.20	+ 0.30	...
Property	529.30	557.10	+ 0.80	...
American	595.20	626.50	- 4.80	...
Australian	667.90	703.00	-13.50	...
European	777.00	817.80	- 3.10	...
Income Acc	951.20	1001.20	- 2.90	...
-do- Dist	524.80	552.50	- 2.10	4.69
International	374.40	394.10	+ 1.40	...
Japan Smaller	350.20	368.60	- 4.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED *Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs* PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	210.70	221.70	+ 1.40	...
-do- Pens	272.00	286.30	+ 2.20	...
UK Equity	228.00	240.00	+ 2.10	...
-do- Pens	277.40	291.90	+ 3.40	...
International	176.20	185.40	+ 2.30	...
-do- Pens	198.60	208.90	+ 2.90	...
Deposit	151.10	159.00	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	183.80	193.40	+ 0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	713.70	755.30	+ 1.50	...
British Fund	732.30	774.90	- 1.20	...
International	650.30	688.20	- 0.60	...
Dollar Fund	601.40	636.50	-10.90	...
Capital Fund	618.40	654.40	- 0.90	...
Income Fund	902.30	954.90	- 4.70	...
Property Series A	511.90	541.70	..	4.90
Property Units	851.90	894.50	...	...
Financial Fund	878.40	929.60	- 4.40	...
Managed Ser A	683.10	722.90	- 1.00	...
Managed Units	1231.10	1298.00	- 1.70	...
High Yield Fund	808.40	855.50	- 3.80	...
Money Series A	315.30	333.70	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	421.50	443.70	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	791.10	837.20	- 1.10	...
Fixed Interest	432.20	457.40	- 1.70	...
Indexed Secs	210.20	222.50	- 0.90	...
European Fund	963.00	1019.10	-12.50	...
Natural Res	334.40	353.90	+10.30	...
Far East Fund	636.00	673.10	+ 6.10	...
Smaller Cos	703.00	744.00	- 2.10	...
Special Sits	702.70	743.60	+ 2.60	...
Man Currency	279.40	295.70	- 1.50	...
Japanese Tech	262.80	278.10	- 1.80	...
US Smaller Cos	448.00	474.10	- 3.30	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	270.00	284.30	+ 0.60	...

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Ernie becomes a lottery

From Mr F. R. Yule

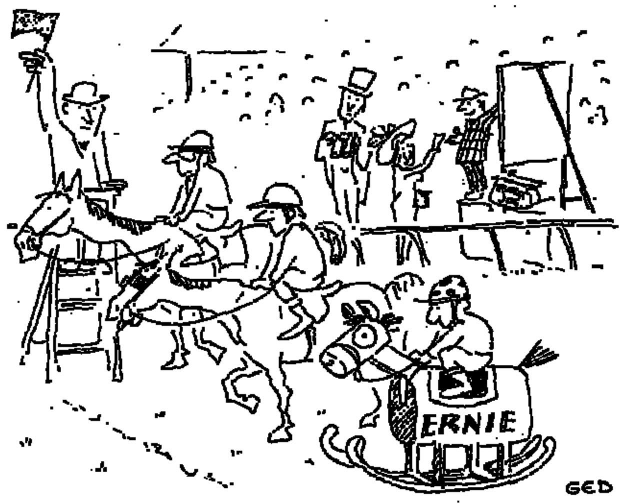
Sir, It used to be said that if one had the allowed maximum holding of Premium Bonds the chances of winning a prize were in the approximate region of 1.1 to 1.

Now that the number of prizes has been reduced, has anyone worked out what an individual's chances are now?

For those of us who were satisfied with little and often and a tax-free income approximating to the average yield, Premium Bonds represented a real investment; now it seems that we are participating in a monthly National Savings lottery.

Maybe Ernie was just getting tired churning out the bread and butter his investors crave and has ambitions to be on television?

Yours faithfully,
F. R. YULE,
1 The Orchard,
7 Tipperlinn Road,
Edinburgh.



Automatic transfers between accounts

From Mr N. R. Hill

Sir, Six years ago I had the same problem as Mr Robert Breckman (Weekend Money letters, February 15) with automatic transfers between my current and deposit accounts. I recommend that he transfers his account to the Royal Bank of Scotland. As a chartered accountant he will surely qualify for a Gold Cheque Account in which case he will be offered free transfer of funds into and out of a Gold Deposit Account, for example, and can set an upper limit on the balance to be automatically maintained in the cheque account.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE HILL,
109 High Street, Portsmouth.

Time delay costs money

From Mr I. McEwan

Sir, My wife and I paid the first instalment of tax under self-assessment by direct funds transfer on January 28, this year. The money would have reached the Inland Revenue the next day, in plenty of time to meet the January 31 deadline.

We were surprised last week to receive a statement for my wife indicating that her payment had reached the Revenue on February 4 and, being a late payment, was subject to interest. The Cheltenham tax office advised us that if the payment was late my wife must pay the interest and, in future, we should make adequate arrangements to ensure payments arrive on time.

My statement of account arrived on Saturday and showed that I had paid my tax in full on January 27.

Yours faithfully,
IAN McEWAN,
The White House,
Alderton, Tewkesbury.

Pension drawdown and annuities

From Mr R. E. Lee

Sir, I write in response to Adrian Simmonds's letter (February 1) in which he asserts his wish to "invest at least a portion of a large pension fund accumulated into equities". This is precisely what the Inland Revenue now allows under "pension drawdown".

Admittedly, an annuity must be purchased by age 75 under current legislation, but, even then, funds can remain invested in equities and driven by either a with-profits or unit-linked portfolio. The question of a gilt-driven annuity need not arise if the annuitant is not predisposed towards such an investment medium.

Although the capital element is lost to the pooled fund of the insurance company on annuity purchase at 75 or earlier, inasmuch as the income generated is surplus to requirements as would seem to be the case from Mr Simmonds's comments, this could be fed directly to one's heir or into some kind of savings plan written under suitable trust for inheritance tax avoidance.

Incidently, the current excellent pension drawdown facility is developed directly from a pioneering product introduced in 1994 by The Equitable Life known as the managed annuity. The difference between managed annuity and currently available plans? Under managed annuity, the policyholder was not compelled to buy an annuity at any age.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LEE,
Olivers Farmhouse,
Meadow Road,
Wickham Bishops, Essex.

Building societies insult disabled members

From Mr J. B. Slack

Sir, I have followed the saga of the treatment of disabled Woolwich and Halifax account members with interest because I am such a person. I have been a member of the Woolwich for 29 years and my wife has had accounts in the Halifax for six. I have used a wheelchair for five years.

Fortunately, I am the first-named person on a joint account in the Woolwich, so the farce of being a disabled person not qualifying for shares does not affect me.

I do, however, feel insulted that such people are treated in this insensitive manner. Disabled people, who need carers to deal physically with their financial affairs, have lost out a great deal on life already and many are in dire mental and financial straits without yet another embarrassing "slap in the face", having to fight for what is rightfully theirs.

Although it would require some effort, the societies could register disabled qualifying members by using orange card numbers or some other meaningful system. I am sure the rules of the societies would soon be changed if one of the directors was in such a predicament. No future conversion should have any excuses for this type of exposure. The societies have time to put their houses in order.

There is time for the Woolwich, between now and July 7, to implement an administrative structure, but the resolve is, for the time being, sadly and insultingly, lacking.

If a disabled camel, possibly a member, were to be thus treated, there would be a major input from the RSPCA and prosecutions threatened by that organisation.

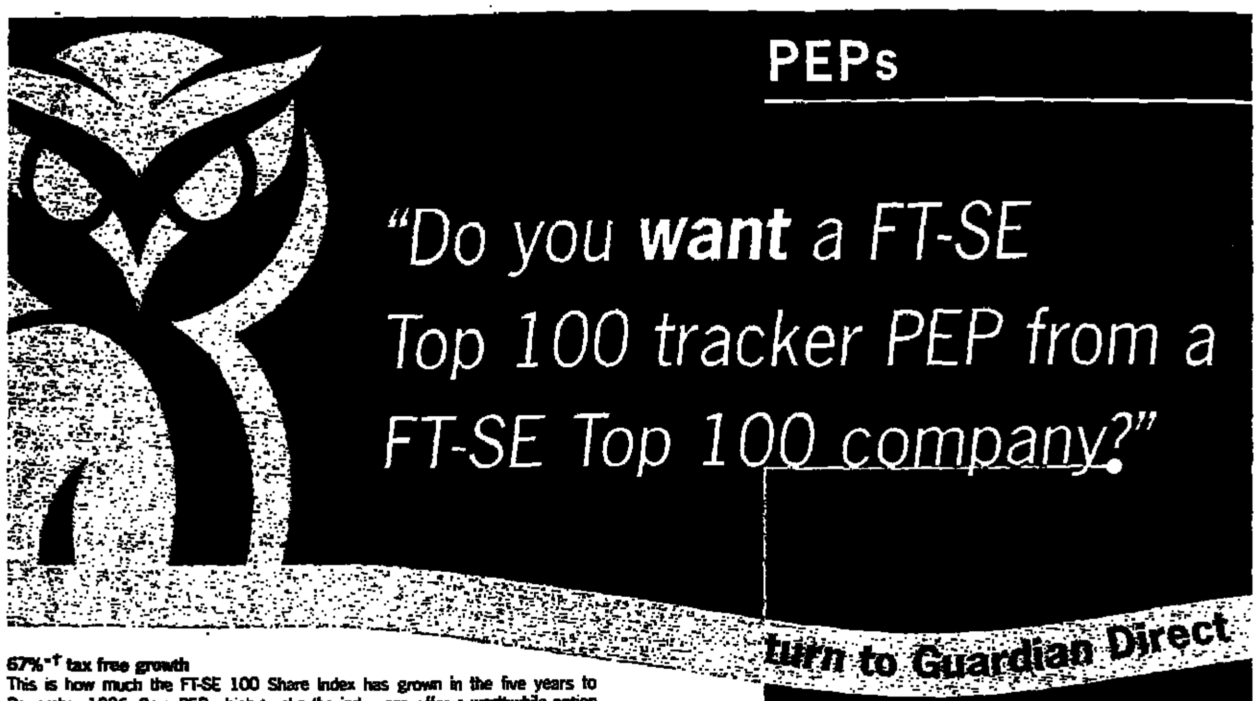
Yours faithfully,
JOHN SLACK,
2 Field Cottage Road,
Eaton Socon,
St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

CGT ALLOWANCES — JANUARY 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in January 1997

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.869	0.778	0.693	0.604	0.544	0.496	0.391
February	-	0.861	0.771	0.679	0.598	0.538	0.489	0.381
March	0.944	0.858	0.765	0.664	0.596	0.535	0.483	0.375
April	0.905	0.832	0.742	0.629	0.581	0.517	0.459	0.351
May	0.892	0.824	0.735	0.622	0.578	0.515	0.454	0.343
June	0.886	0.820	0.731	0.618	0.579	0.515	0.448	0.338
July	0.886	0.810	0.733	0.621	0.583	0.517	0.447	0.337
August	0.885	0.802	0.717	0.617	0.578	0.512	0.431	0.333
September	0.886	0.794	0.713	0.618	0.571	0.508	0.424	0.324
October	0.877	0.788	0.703	0.615	0.568	0.500	0.410	0.314
November	0.868	0.782	0.698	0.610	0.555	0.493	0.404	0.303
December	0.871	0.777	0.699	0.608	0.550	0.495	0.400	0.300
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	0.292	0.186	0.139	0.120	0.093	0.058	0.028	
February	0.285	0.180	0.133	0.112	0.087	0.051	0.023	
March	0.272	0.175	0.129	0.108	0.084	0.047	0.019	
April	0.234	0.160	0.112	0.098	0.071	0.036	0.012	
May	0.223	0.157	0.108	0.094	0.067	0.032	0.010	
June	0.219	0.151	0.108	0.095	0.067	0.031	0.009	
July	0.218	0.154	0.112	0.097	0.072	0.036	0.013	
August	0.205	0.151	0.112	0.093	0.067	0.030	0.008	
September	0.194	0.147	0.108	0.088	0.065	0.025	0.004	
October	0.185	0.143	0.104	0.089	0.063	0.031	0.004	
November	0.188	0.139	0.105	0.090	0.063	0.031	0.003	
December	0.189	0.138	0.109	0.088	0.058	0.025	Nil	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1965 (April 1, 1965 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.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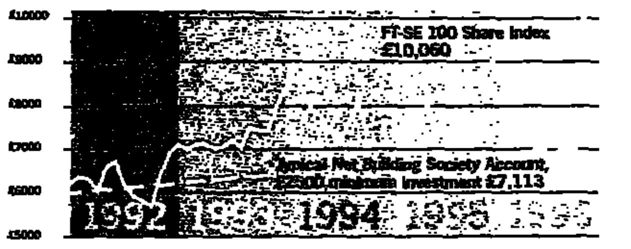
* Source: Micropal
† Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up.



Growth of the FT-SE 100 Share Index against a typical Building Society Account, £2500 minimum investment. Source: Micropal 13.12.96. Offer to offer prices, Gross Reinvestment, based in UK Sterling, calculation: lump sum (£6000).

The information reflects our understanding of current legislation and tax regulations which are both subject to change.

The Guardian Direct Top 100 tracker PEP is a unit trust investment so the value of the units and income from them can go down as well as up. On the encashment of the units you may receive back less than you invested. In the event of the income from the trust being insufficient to meet the annual fund manager's fee and other allowable expenses, then the manager reserves the right to be remunerated from the capital value of the trust. Tax legislation may change in the future. The value of any tax relief depends upon the financial circumstances of the investor.

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*Based on Direct Line FT-SE 100 Tracker [illegible] to 17th January 1997. Direct Line Unit Trusts Limited [illegible] and IMRO. Direct Line does not offer investment advice. [illegible] may not get back all the money you invest. Past performance [illegible] under a Personal Equity Plan are payable tax free, but [illegible] savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend on individual circumstances. [illegible] security telephone calls may be recorded and randomly monitored. [illegible] Direct Line Insurance plc and are used with its permission.

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☐ Please send me/us details of your First Class 90 Account.
☐ Please open a First Class 90 Account. I/we enclose a cheque no. ______ for £ ______
(Minimum investment £10,000. Maximum investment £500,000. Joint Accounts £1 million.) We will ask you to complete an account application and, if you are not already a Birmingham Midshires customer, let us see appropriate identification.
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) ______ Address ______ PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Postcode ______ Daytime Tel. No. ______ FIR 02/97 TMS002

Birmingham Midshires Building Society
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*Correct as at 21/2/97 Source Moneyfacts. Member of the Building Societies Association. The interest rate is variable. Interest is calculated from the 4th working day following receipt of your cheque. Interest on the above example is paid annually, and may be paid gross subject to certification as required by the Inland Revenue. Access is available on 90 days notice with no loss of interest. Minimum investment £10,000. Maximum investment £500,000, joint accounts £1 million. Birmingham Midshires Building Society, PO Box 81, Pendeford Business Park, Wobaston Road, Wolverhampton WV9 5HZ. Managed assets exceed £7.7 billion. Established since 1849.

هكذا من الاهل

هكذا من الاصل

UNIT TRUST PRICES

For AIB see Govett (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General Acc	721.60	767.70	-2.70	2.27
General Inc	602.30	640.80	-2.30	2.27
UK Growth Acc	499.58	531.49	-2.60	2.42
UK Growth Inc	323.20	343.90	-1.70	2.42
Higher Inc Acc	889.40	946.35	-8.70	3.85
Higher Inc Inc	473.80	504.10	-4.70	3.85
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	218.80	231.10		5.69
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.61	101.10		5.69
Nth America	375.40	399.40	-3.20	
Europe	393.80	419.00	-2.00	0.14
Brit Excell	98.60	105.00	-0.68	2.54
Brit Fnds Acc	125.40	133.50	-1.20	4.39
Brit Fnds Inc	83.42	88.78	-0.76	4.39
Global Opps	106.40	113.20	+0.80	
Balanced Acc	66.89	71.16	-0.19	2.45
Balanced Inc	62.46	66.45	-0.17	2.45
Japan Acc	38.67	41.14	+0.96	
Pac Basin Acc	414.80	441.30	+5.30	0.78

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.40	144.80		6.57
High Inc Equity	196.50	210.20t	-0.30	4.52
Worldwide Bond	271.10	287.50t	+0.20	4.65
American Growth	435.50	465.40t	-1.90	0.36
Asian Pacific	344.30	368.30	+4.30	0.37
Assets & Earnings	325.90	348.60	-8.10	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	202.40	216.50	-1.70	0.73
Extra Inc	42.85	45.60t	-0.24	8.03
General	290.60	309.20t	+0.10	3.82
Global Opps	75.30	80.11	+0.30	0.50
Japan	91.30	98.37	+3.02	
Managed Inc	49.56	52.72t	-0.17	4.27
Mastertrust	177.40	189.70	+0.70	1.27
UG Emerging Cos	197.40	210.00	-4.40	
Ethical	89.08	94.77	-0.04	1.81
International	142.10	151.20	+0.70	0.66
Dividend & Growth	72.47	77.10t	-0.08	4.36
Global Gwth & Inc	74.90	80.02	+0.75	2.32
Latin America	80.56	85.70	+0.62	0.46
Capital Reserve	147.60	147.70		4.74

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NLP UK Growth	96.91	103.00t	-0.40	2.31
Equity Income	136.30	145.00	-1.10	4.13
Extra Income	263.30	280.10	-0.90	6.35
Smaller Cos	114.80	122.10		1.45
International	117.80	125.30	-0.40	1.34

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2564.00	2665.00	+13.00	

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	65.66	68.14	-1.14	0.14
Emerging Mkts	80.50	83.84	+0.82	0.04
European	162.70	169.10t	-0.80	
Extra Income #	51.38	54.07	-0.02	6.02
Far East Emg Eco	132.00	138.50	+0.80	0.45
Fixed Interest #	26.54	27.60t	+0.08	8.80
Fund Inv Tst #	167.60	175.20t	+1.70	9.48
Japan	156.60	162.90	+0.50	
Latin American	70.03	72.88	+0.49	0.67
Pacific	82.47	86.57	+0.65	0.30
Property Share	80.46	84.48t	+0.38	2.08
UK Emerging Cos	74.24	80.24t	+0.20	1.30
UK Growth	59.54	62.01	-0.01	1.89
Aber World Port #	85.47	88.24	-0.18	2.82
Ethical	83.00	86.32	+0.65	2.85
American Gth Inc #	51.14	51.19	+0.10	7.24

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	168.13	180.79	+1.93	0.74
UK Equity	104.63	111.60	-0.38	3.18
UK Equity & Bd	61.67	65.31	-0.40	5.14
UK Smllr Cos	58.39	60.32	+0.14	1.25

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	829.36	838.84	+6.02	4.68
Fxd Int Sec	161.93	162.57	+0.33	8.00

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	818.27	830.63	+8.86	4.14
Investment Acc	£38.28	£38.77	+42.0t	..
Fixed Int Inc	131.03	131.55	+0.39	8.82
Fixed Int Acc	244.09	245.07	+0.34	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	91.00	95.94	+2.70	5.22
Beck Bio-Tech	49.06	53.25	+2.83	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	200.60	218.65	-0.25	0.42
City Fin Accum	83.18	87.26	-0.22	1.76
City Fin Inl	91.16	95.73	+2.16	0.13
Friars Hse Cap	323.40	344.04t	+0.27	2.30
Buckley Wrld Gth	148.13	157.82	+3.74	..
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	61.32	64.38	+0.44	3.23
Shaw Utilities	64.74	68.24	-0.80	8.69

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	61.02	64.74	+2.10	..

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 232

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	86.23	91.73	-1.53	..
Dragon Growth	75.20	80.52	+1.86	0.23
Equity High Inc	98.17	105.02	-0.52	3.54
-do- Accum	143.01	153.00	-0.75	3.54
Extra Income Inc	27.58	29.85	+0.07	6.73
Extra Income Acc	30.78	32.42	+0.08	6.73
European Gwth	67.31	71.42	-0.76	0.44
Evergreen	32.26	34.50	-0.07	
General Equity	114.68	121.65	-0.34	2.44
Japan Growth	38.99	41.48	+0.54	
Pedigree Gwth	68.91	73.79	-0.20	2.02
Perf Sm Cos Inc	40.96	44.04	-0.07	1.01
-do- Accum	43.86	46.95	-0.07	1.01
Retirement Inc #	29.90	31.94	-0.10	5.41
Special Sits	50.59	54.40	-0.37	2.36
UK & Overseas	63.34	67.70	-0.13	0.47

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	74.11	77.19t	-0.56	3.91
Capital	89.52	93.25t	-0.33	2.48
High Income	53.98	56.22t	+0.06	6.42
Top 50	61.25	63.80t	-0.36	2.40

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	208.82	217.54	-1.90	4.22
Long Gilt	45.87	47.76t	-0.11	5.84
Monthly Inc Plus	53.06	55.28	+0.18	8.11
Preference Share	50.86	52.98t	+0.16	7.36

Balanced Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
High Yield	152.40	158.87t	-1.12	5.37
Managed Fund	80.32	83.68	-0.04	2.65

UK Growth Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	57.55	59.95	-0.17	1.58
-do- Accum	68.03	70.87	-0.19	1.58
UK & General	106.65	111.11	-0.46	2.71
-do- Accum	140.34	146.28	-0.64	2.71
UK Growth	214.41	223.37	-1.56	1.26

International Growth Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Europe Growth	227.45	236.95	-2.64	0.61

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-
-do- Accum	284.30	303.70	-4.20
Income & Growth	240.80	256.20	+0.50
-do- Accum	388.00	413.00	+0.50
Intl Growth	456.90	486.30	-3.30
-do- Accum	485.20	517.70	-4.00
Japan & Gen	139.80	148.50t	+3.00
-do- Accum	141.20	150.00t	+3.00
Monthly Inc #	209.40	222.80t	+0.80
-do- Accum #	211.90	225.40t	+0.76
Managed Port Inc	126.00	133.50	-0.98
-do- Accum	137.80	145.10	-0.10
Quarterly Income #	59.07	63.24t	-0.12
-do- Accum #	69.06	73.94t	-0.14
Recovery	341.20	364.90t	-2.60
-do- Accum	402.80	430.80t	-3.00
UK Growth	71.53	76.20	-0.34
-do- Accum	77.68	82.64	-0.36

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01722 715635 Enq 01722 715634

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-
FP American	69.05	73.61	-0.63
FP Am Smllr Cos	209.40	223.30	+0.30
FP Asian Growth	300.70	320.70	+4.70
FP Australian	440.10	469.40	+9.40
FP Equity Dist	494.40	527.30	+1.00
-do- Accum	£11.04	£11.77	+3.00
FP Euro Gth	318.10	339.30	-1.20
-do- Accum	348.00	371.20	-1.00
FP Intl Bond	56.67	59.96t	+0.00
FP Intl Gth Dist	39.92	42.58	+0.00
-do- Accum	58.61	62.53	+0.00
FP Pac Basin Acc	218.70	233.20	+4.00
FP Income #	63.07	67.27	-0.00
-do- Accum #	224.20	239.10	-0.00
FP Jap Smllr Cos	228.30	243.50	+1.00
FP Mnthly Dist #	79.87	85.19t	-0.00
FP Stlg Deposit	100.60	100.60	+0.00
FP Tokyo	67.01	71.47	+0.00
FP UK Focus	45.75	48.80	+0.00
FP UK Growth	215.80	230.10	+0.00
-do- Accum	439.00	468.20	+0.00
Stewardship Dist	477.40	509.20	+0.00
-do- Accum	603.30	643.50	+0.00
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	83.85	89.43t	-0.00
-do- Accum #	117.30	125.10	-0.00
N Am Stshp Dist	136.00	145.00	
-do- Accum	146.40	156.10	+0.00
FP Exempt Trust			
Intl Ethical In #	115.00	115.50	+0.00
Intl Ethical Ac #	115.00	115.50	+0.00

FP Managed Portfolio Service

	Sell	Buy
Capital Gwth Acc	134.70	143.20
Open Cap Gth Acc	138.90	147.70
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	123.40	131.20t
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	132.10	140.50
Opn Co Gth Ic Ic #	128.10	136.20t
Opn Co Gth Ic Ac #	138.70	147.50

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0345 581 106/7

	Sell	Buy
GANDA		
Cash	320.80	340.40
Growth Portfolio	49.37	50.11t
Income Portfolio	94.82	100.90t
	77.73	82.47t

GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD
0171 230 6441

	Sell	Buy
Special Sits	252.50	270.10
Dividend	106.00	113.40t
Intl Gth & Inc	269.00	287.70
UK & Gen	55.04	58.87
Fund of Funds	79.49	85.02

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 826 9430

	Sell	Buy
American Smllr Cos	227.80	243.70
European Gth	798.00	849.50

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc #	113.40	119.50	+0.60	1.74
Sector Value Gwth	115.40	121.50	-3.00	1.99
Hy 5 Europe	106.80	112.10	-2.30	0.91
Sister Gwth	208.10	222.00	-1.15	..
New Japan	80.73	85.20		

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

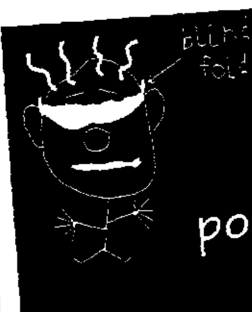
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
World Health	225.10	239.40t	-3.40	..
Income #	241.84	257.27t	+1.92	4.93
UK Growth	94.47	100.49t	+0.11	1.84
Intl Growth	91.18	97.00t	-0.31	0.58
Ecology	111.57	118.11	-0.86	0.67
European	229.298	244.04t	-1.52	0.20
Far Eastern	318.40	338.70t	+3.90	
UK Special Sits	59.85	63.66	+0.09	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.59	60.36	+0.73	..

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 261 610 Enq: 01903 204 631

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Growth	107.88	114.76	-1.96	0.44
Intl Bond	63.95	67.18	-0.87	4.71
Intl Equity Growth	88.99	94.57	-0.09	0.54
N Amer Growth	154.82	164.55	-1.00	0.70
Special Sits Growth	30.49	32.42	+0.13	1.95
UK Growth	499.85	531.75	+1.54	2.36
-do- Accum	690.24	734.29	+2.13	2.36

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01628 825867

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1514.90	1537.40	+10.00	2.80
Income #	1072.30	1088.80t	+5.30	4.00



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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354
Income Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bond Income	105.00	108.50	+0.10	6.63
Euro Pfts Inc	110.80	117.90	-0.10	2.75
-do- Accum	110.85	117.93	-0.10	2.75
Gilt Yield	123.30	129.90	-0.70	6.23
Global Income	243.90	259.50t		3.07
High Yield	169.80	180.60t	-2.50	5.16
-do- Accum	567.10	603.30t	-9.40	5.16
Money Market	98.83	98.83t	+0.07	5.45
Smllr Cos Div	66.15	70.37t	+0.15	3.82
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.300	10.44	+0.03	

Capital Growth Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Smllr Cos	166.70	177.30t	-3.40	
Asian Growth	336.70	358.20	+6.50	..
-do- Accum	395.70	421.00	+7.70	..
North American	171.50	179.30	-2.40	
European Special	143.80	153.00	+0.20	1.09
European	192.40	204.70	-1.70	0.47
-do- Accum	254.70	271.00	-2.40	0.47
Global Eqty Inc	127.60	135.40t	+0.36	3.06
Japan	335.70	353.30	+4.10	
Japanese Special	176.90	188.20	-3.00	
Smaller Cos	160.20	170.40	-3.80	0.98
UK Equity Growth	59.98	63.87t	+0.15	1.12
UK Index Inc	347.40	369.20	-1.30	3.58
Bosham Tst	113.90	122.40	+1.00	1.88
-do- Accum	115.50	124.10	+1.00	1.58

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gudgn Income	337.52	354.81	-0.87	4.60
Gilt Growth	105.11	111.88	+0.84	1.94
Inc & Growth Inc	74.74	79.51t	+0.15	3.56
Smaller Cos	100.98	107.32	-0.03	1.11
Euro Spcl Sits Inc	257.60	274.04	-1.20	2.17
Euro Spcl Sits Acc	463.26	494.96	-1.18	2.17
Euro Recovery Inc	65.73	69.39	+0.38	2.03
Euro Recovery Acc	68.58	72.43	+0.42	2.03

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01277 690 432

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Gth	491.60	521.60t	+1.20	2.07
UK Inc Gth #	513.50	544.80t	-3.30	4.07
UK Income #	366.90	389.30t	-2.80	4.59
UK Smr Cos	332.50	355.60	-0.60	1.48
Euro Gwth	172.10	182.60	-1.10	0.15
N Amer Gwth	133.90	142.10	-1.00	
Japan Gwth	48.45	51.41	+1.45	

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 295

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Dist ⓒ	532.80	532.80t	-3.10	2.50
-do- Accum ⓒ	772.09	772.09t	-5.00	2.50
Equity Income ⓒ #	110.40	110.40t	-0.90	4.77
UK Tracker Alloc ⓒ	72.48	72.48	-0.57	4.19
European ⓒ	156.10	156.10t	-1.80	0.94
Far Eastern ⓒ	231.00	231.00t	+0.70	
Fixed Interest ⓒ	56.67	56.67	+0.12	6.67
Gilt ⓒ	95.12	95.12	+0.02	6.40
Global Growth ⓒ	84.01	84.01t	-0.64	0.30
Intl Bond ⓒ	50.74	50.74t	+0.04	5.36
Japanese ⓒ	59.07	59.07t	-0.08	..
North American ⓒ	144.70	144.70t	-1.30	0.48
Pacific Growth ⓒ	130.60	130.60	+1.40	0.11
UT Index ⓒ	93.34	93.84	-0.26	2.96
UK Recovery ⓒ	124.50	124.50	+0.20	1.87
UK Smaller Cos ⓒ	173.60	173.60	+0.10	1.01
US Index ⓒ	95.56	95.56t	-0.68	1.03
European Index ⓒ	98.59	98.09t	-1.07	1.56
Japan Index ⓒ	31.65	31.67t	+1.13	0.03
Worldwide ⓒ	104.40	104.40	-0.30	1.43

LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS
01452 371 500 Dealing 01452 371 623

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Maldon General	182.30	185.80t	+6.30	3.33

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
M & S Inc Ptflo	186.60	194.40t	-0.90	2.35
-do- Accum	226.03	233.09t	-0.60	2.35
UK Sel Ptflo	169.10	174.40	-0.60	2.39
-do- Accum	205.80	212.30	-0.70	2.39
UK 100 Cos	127.80	127.80	-0.80	2.61
-do- Accum	130.20	130.20	-0.80	2.61

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	78.07	80.93	+1.04	3.25

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Income	91.54	97.18	+0.55	2.86
European	112.56	119.42t	-0.60	0.79
Income #	90.78	96.97t	+0.27	3.70
Nth American	187.80	214.20	-1.40	0.02
Far East	188.90	200.50	+1.90	0.16
Japan	54.98	58.37	+1.10	..
Emrging Mkts	99.48	105.40t	+1.50	
Intl Growth	141.90	150.60	+1.10	0.39
UK Growth	135.40	143.70	+1.00	2.10
UK Smllr Co	68.86	72.68	+0.65	1.15
Asia Pacific	41.07	43.93	+0.51	0.36
Glob Gwth PEP	68.71	72.93	+0.32	0.35

MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0161 831 7433

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Select Portfolio	107.40	114.30	+1.20	...

MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income	499.92	531.83	-2.43	4.27
Global Inc	79.70	84.79	-0.57	4.12
Brit Leaders	408.08	435.17	-2.38	3.50
Intl Leaders	246.12	261.84	-1.71	1.27
PAM Mg Bal Gth	75.72	79.63	+2.31	0.43

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 0800 445522

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American	306.80	325.80	-2.30	
-do- Accum	330.70	348.20	-2.50	
American Opps	132.20	141.00	-2.30	
-do- Accum	133.70	142.90	-2.40	
British Blue Chip	105.00	111.30	+0.50	2.16
-do- Accum	136.20	144.40	+0.60	2.16
Cash	100.50	100.50	+0.10	5.76
-do- Accum	150.80	150.80	+0.20	5.76
Emerging Mkts	146.30	157.30	+0.60	0.00
-do- Accum	148.10	159.30	+0.70	0.00
European Growth	349.80	370.30	-5.80	0.12
-do- Accum	381.40	403.70	-6.40	0.12
European Income	96.91	102.60	-1.00	2.80
-do- Accum	140.80	149.20	-1.30	2.80
General	657.00	698.80	+1.80	1.78
-do- Accum	1344.00	1428.00	+3.00	1.78
Global Bond	133.10	139.80		4.86
-do- Accum	176.90	185.80		4.86
Gold & General	215.90	231.10	+12.60	0.39
-do- Accum	223.00	239.20	+13.30	0.39
Govt Securities	97.55	100.50		5.52
-do- Accum	209.50	215.90		5.52
High Yield Gilt	106.30	108.80	+0.10	6.55
-do- Accum	114.50	117.20	+0.10	6.59
Income	201.60	213.80t	-0.70	4.21
-do- Accum	341.80	362.80t	-1.30	4.21
Inc Portfolio #	118.70	125.50t		4.96
-do- Accum #	131.50	139.10t		4.96
Intl Opps	579.80	618.50	+8.50	0.14
-do- Accum	765.50	837.90	+9.40	0.14
Japan	147.50	157.30t	+4.40	
-do- Accum	151.40	161.40t	+4.40	
New Europe	253.80	270.50t	-1.20	0.74
-do- Accum	266.30	284.10t	-1.30	0.74
Pacific	119.10	127.00	+1.10	0.00
-do- Accum	128.30	136.90	+1.30	0.00
Recovery	549.80	544.90	+4.30	0.48

	Sell	Buy
Intl Bond	113.29	119.25
Gilt & Convertible	85.37	90.92
Property		

OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD
01256 768 888

	Sell	Buy
European Inc	399.30	427.80
-do- Accum	423.60	454.30
Japan Inc	88.28	94.49
Nth American Inc	171.80	182.50
Worldwide Inc	194.40	208.20
Hong Kong Inc	199.30	212.60
Swiss Equities Inc	88.72	94.71
Worldw Bond Inc	68.50	72.42
Emrgng Asia Inc	201.50	210.90
-do- Accum	202.40	219.70
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.12	50.12t
Thailand Inc	93.61	102.40
New Zealand Inc	102.60	110.20
Intl Magd PEP Inc	77.27	82.70
Latin Am Corp Inc	75.78	81.37t
UK All Sh Idx Inc	77.46	78.57
Dollar Unit Trusts		
Global Tecnlogy	86.66	93.11
Global Portfolio	78.65	82.38
Global Opps	68.65	73.74
Marsh Global Gth	68.73	72.88
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	118.00	125.80
Temple Equity Inc	51.95	56.27
Henley Growth	125.90	133.90
Intl Growth Inc	86.80	92.83
IFS Portfolio Inc	97.34	104.00
Premier Portfus Inc	71.40	76.30
Eastbrgh Shrd Gth	83.42	87.90
International Strat	87.12	92.80
UFC Growth	66.39	71.80
Chesfield Fnd of Fds	57.84	62.30
Lowes Intl Growth	50.67	53.10

PM UT MGRS LTD
0171 588 3963

	Sell	Buy
Equity Gth	267.30	284.00
European Gth	143.90	152.50
Income & Gth #	171.40	182.40
Japan Gth	88.07	94.00
Nth Amer Gth	244.90	260.00
Overseas Gth	129.60	137.00

PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Dlg: 0800 828 577 Enq: 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity	297.50	318.40	-3.80	1.91
-do- Accum	658.10	700.80	-8.50	1.91
Growth	194.30	204.40	-3.20	2.25
Income	291.70	310.20	-0.60	3.40
Intl Equity	293.20	311.80	-1.70	0.42
-do- Accum	328.30	349.10	-1.90	0.42
UK Income #	79.66	84.77t	+0.85	4.78
UK Intl 25	101.20	102.70		1.49
New Europe	112.40	119.50	+0.20	

PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT
01491 417 000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	743.05	793.75	-2.16	0.58
-do- Accum	747.67	798.68	-2.17	0.58
Income	491.26	525.42	-1.78	2.71
Wrldwide Recovery	484.66	518.36	-3.42	0.44
Amer Growth Inc	328.31	349.73t	-6.20	0.01
-do- Accum	329.32	349.73	-6.28	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	300.57	321.47	-0.82	0.16
Far Estn Gwth Inc	314.32	336.18	+1.52	0.86
-do- Accum	316.25	340.38	+1.54	0.86
Euro Gwth Inc	208.13	222.01	+0.13	0.40
-do- Accum	208.85	222.78	+0.13	0.40
UK Growth Inc	128.74	137.69	+0.06	2.39
-do- Accum	138.27	147.88	+0.07	2.39
High Income	126.86	135.68t	-0.80	3.32
Jap Growth Inc	158.65	169.68	+1.17	0.25
-do- Accum	158.65	169.68	+1.17	0.25
PEP Bond	58.04	60.65	+0.05	7.23
PEP Growth	156.75	167.58	-0.71	0.66
Asian Smr Mkts Inc	144.62	154.68t	+0.59	0.07
-do- Accum	145.09	155.18	+0.59	0.07
Amer Smllr Co Inc	207.45	221.77	-3.57	0.01
-do- Accum	207.45	221.77	-3.57	0.01
Global Bond	56.38	59.41	-0.10	5.00
UK Smaller Cos Inc	119.85	128.19	+0.32	1.36
-do- Accum	127.68	136.56	+0.35	1.36

PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0191 201 3827

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American	148.48	157.96	+2.77	..
European	106.77	113.58t	+1.89	..
Global	74.75	79.52	+1.13	..
Pacific	59.00	62.77	+1.10	..
UK Inc & Gth	88.58	94.23	+0.87	1.53

PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Acc	53.01	56.30	+0.53	0.01
Emerg Mkts	52.52	55.58	+0.82	0.94
Euro Fund Acc	46.75	50.00	..	
Fund of Funds Inc	210.36	227.62t	+1.47	0.53
Fund of Funds Acc	212.29	224.05	+1.48	0.53
High Income #	57.44	60.78t	+0.16	5.35
Performance	52.02	55.34	+0.29	

PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01752 740 700

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Principal Tst	189.50	201.60t	-1.02	1.85

PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 282 443

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Income	136.90	145.60t	-0.40	2.67
Convt & Gilt	126.48	134.50t	-1.80	4.61
European Income	92.63	98.54	-0.05	3.13
Extra Income	193.40	205.80t	+1.40	4.46
-do- Accum	255.00	271.30	+1.80	4.46
Far East	412.80	439.00	+10.40	0.21
-do- Accum	421.30	448.20	+10.60	0.21
Global Income	30.26	32.18t	-0.04	3.93
High Income	147.90	157.30	+0.80	4.12
-do- Accum	189.60	201.70	+1.00	4.12
International	227.30	241.50	-0.30	0.26
-do- Accum	236.50	251.60	-0.10	0.25
Pref & Fxd Int	47.21	50.22t	+0.22	9.62
Recovery	97.24	103.50		2.17

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	227.13	236.50	+0.82	0.89
Overseas Equity	239.22	249.19	+0.68	0.89
-do- Accum	142.40	148.38t	-0.07	0.83
Overs Smllr Cos	151.28	157.55	+0.55	0.83
-do- Accum	308.56	319.33	+4.00	1.21
Pacific	342.07	356.31	+5.45	1.21
-do- Accum	225.23	228.29t	+8.30	2.79
Recovery	228.08	229.25t	+9.24	2.79
-do- Accum	201.88	210.27t	-0.47	3.12
UK Index	263.31	274.28t	+0.20	3.12
-do- Accum	157.54	164.14t	-1.09	2.25
UK Small Cos	176.53	183.88t	+0.45	2.25
-do- Accum	69.62	72.52	+0.21	0.79
US Smllr Cos	71.52	74.50	+0.22	0.79
-do- Accum				

SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD
0141 204 2200

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Income	64.80	67.71	+0.37	2.78
Equity Trust	83.67	88.49	+0.88	2.08
Equity Strategy	98.62	104.29	-0.01	1.20
European Opps	113.58	120.00	+0.21	0.07
UK Smaller Cos	87.37	92.38	+0.12	0.85
Minimum Inc	96.49	101.05	+0.20	6.55
Japanese	61.89	65.24	+2.96	...
Asia Pacific	129.45	136.93	+0.21	0.39
American	152.08	160.82	-2.11	0.04

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD
0800 454 422

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	33.87	33.87t	+0.03	5.50
UK General Inc	67.58	71.93t	-0.32	2.97
-do- Accum	91.60	97.60t	-0.31	2.97
Intl Income	308.81	328.74t	-1.35	1.35
-do- Accum	546.22	581.48t	-2.38	1.35
European	112.03	118.80t	-1.72	1.48
Japan	53.29	56.44t	+1.71	0.20
American	111.93	118.36t	-1.62	1.10
Far East	91.38	97.47	+1.17	1.27
Ethical Inc	45.06	48.19t	-0.10	1.57
UK Blue Chip Inc	42.94	45.82t		3.38
High Inc Inc	44.59	47.56t	-0.40	4.14
UK Global Inc	51.31	54.89t	-0.33	1.79
Wwide Tact	87.91	93.59	-0.04	1.03
Europe 2000 Tact	77.01	81.57	-1.32	0.95
Technology	167.43	178.38	-1.98	0.68

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity	528.20	562.30	-0.90	2.89
American	389.80	412.90	-7.30	0.27
Pacific	389.90	415.90	+5.70	0.20
European	723.30	773.60	-6.20	0.81
Worldwide	103.90	111.10	-0.20	0.34

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc	355.70	378.50	-0.30	2.19
-do- Accum	471.50	501.70	-0.40	2.19
UK Str Co Eq Inc	311.00	330.90	+0.90	1.23
-do- Accum	384.50	409.10	+1.00	1.23
Select Opprty Inc	92.77	98.22	-0.21	1.57
Income Plus Inc	89.84	95.58	+0.14	3.14
European Inc	468.20	497.80	-6.80	0.71
-do- Accum	539.60	573.80	-7.70	0.71
Far Eastern Inc	188.20	200.30	+2.80	1.11
-do- Accum	218.30	232.30	+3.28	1.11
Japanese Inc	50.54	53.77	+1.29	...
Nth American Inc	363.30	386.00	-7.40	0.36
-do- Accum	401.90	427.10	-8.10	0.36
Intl Growth Inc	236.90	252.90	+0.20	0.64
Wwide Venture Inc	97.29	103.50	+0.70	0.70

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT
0131 668 9724

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	484.00	516.10	+2.80	2.22
-do- Accum	742.50	791.90	+4.10	2.22
UK High Inc	235.60	251.20	+0.50	2.22

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	365.50	388.80	+0.80	2.22
Europe Inc	513.00	547.10	+0.40	0.22
Nth Amer Inc	362.70	386.30	-5.30	..
Global Inc	266.60	286.50	+1.80	
Global Acc	290.60	309.90	+1.90	
UK Spec Sits Inc	148.60	158.50	+1.50	1.55
South East Asia	236.40	252.10	+7.00	0.20
Cash Tust Inc	101.00	101.00	+0.10	5.46
UK Smllr Cos Inc	134.50	143.80	+0.20	1.59
-do- Accum	142.70	152.70	+0.30	1.59
Intl Bond Inc	90.77	96.37	+0.24	5.13

SHARP (ALBERT E)
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 610

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	174.30	183.50t	-1.60	0.37
Nth American	154.30	162.40t	-3.80	
Intl Bond & Conv	131.70	138.60t	+0.30	6.30
Pooled Pension (X)	253.10	272.10	+1.00	1.93
Smaller Cos	131.00	137.90	+0.20	0.78
UK General #	183.30	192.90	+0.60	1.94
Far Eastern	92.46	97.33	+1.93	

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
0171 626 6226

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Continental	97.25	102.10t	-0.40	0.91
Global Gwth	83.64	88.46	+0.11	1.74
Inv Tst Port	61.90	65.85	+0.02	2.32
Managed	214.34	224.90	+20.13	1.54
Pref Inc #	110.30	117.50t	-0.10	5.24
Smaller Cos	297.70	316.70t	+1.00	0.65
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	109.35		-0.23	4.40
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.95		+0.10	5.00
Corporate Inc ‡	103.60		-0.82	5.18
Tai Pan ‡	121.33		+1.16	..
Aztec ‡	76.65		+0.23	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	144.54		-1.40	
European ‡	175.50		+0.34	
Global Bond ‡	90.53		+0.26	7.61
Samurai ‡	49.86		+0.20	
Uk Growth ‡	115.11		-0.23	2.49
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	112.31		-0.83	2.51
	119.60		+1.15	1.40

TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 469 4000

	Sell	Buy
Glob Growth Inc	252.25	268.60
Glob Balncd Inc	205.07	218.90
Value Tst Inc	156.74	165.80

THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001

	Sell
Greater Eur Bd	40.47
European Growth	368.17
Europa	733.18
Global Em Mkts	95.32
Japan Tst	66.74
Little Dragons	119.33
Nth Amer Gwth	348.75
Oriental Income #	48.90
Packmann	136.50
Tiger	315.50
UK Blue Chip	85.03
UK Growth	731.98
UK High Yield #	126.48
UK Mid-Cap	307.81
Uk Smllr Cos	155.23
UK Smllr Cos Div #	96.63

UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT
01277 690 336

	Sell
UK Equity Income #	123.61
UK Equity Growth	111.16
European	93.19
Nth American	96.72
Far Eastern	76.65
Money	72.72
Fixed Interest #	63.50
Index Linked Gilt	75.65

VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD
0345 959595

	Sell
Income Trust	108.54
Pens Growth	108.87
Pens Inc Prflo	104.61
UK Index Tracking ⓒ	142.38

WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0131 651 7455

	Sell
Australasian Gold	31.01
Pacific Basin	43.18
Global Bond (US$)	0.9323
Penny Share	47.95
Japan Smllr Cos	33.48

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGRS
0171 623 2444

	Sell
Challenger	82.63
Short Dtd Gilt	126.85
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7924
Gilt Income	52.20
Gilt Growth	79.90
Sterling Bond	49.90

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 298 4000

	Sell
Intl Mgd	59.30
UK Stockmarket	110.90
Corporate Bd Inc	50.30
Do Accum	52.30

Source: FT Information

- Yield expressed as CAR
† Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price
# Periodic Charge deducted from capital
Charge.

Shares end off the day's lows

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and *price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.*

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	407½	Allied Domecq	436½	- 6½	6.8	13.2
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	617½		3.7	18.4
131	63½	Burn Stewart	67½		6.3	71.7
980	615	Glenmorangie A	970	+ 10	1.6	26.4
496	411	Grand Met	466½	+ ½	4.3	15.1
493	424	Guinness	459		4.2	14.2
390	315	Highland Dist	352½		2.9	17.0
303	255½	Matthew Clark	301	- 1½	10.0	14.4
141	91½	Merrydown W	107½		5.3	14.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1918½	- 12½	1.8	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4490¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	4475	- 16¾	2.6	18.1
811	528	Abbey Nat	777	- 6½	3.7	14.4
456½	315	Allied Irish	451½	- 4	4.0	..
408½	285	Aus New Z	396	- 13½	4.8	
7609¾	3943¾	Bank America	7265¾	- 346¼		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	363	- ½	2.5	13.3
1226	683	Barclays	1128½	+ 2	3.6	11.2
631½	413	Bk of Ireland	631½	+ 9	3.3	14.3
7884¾	4031¼	Citicorp	7450	- 321¼	..	
1575	1259¾	Commerzbk	1271¼		3.5	..
1350	609¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	734¾	+ 50	0.6	
3412½	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3158¾	- 50	2.1	
868¾	593½	Espirito Santo	865¾	- 3½	3.9	12.1
1507	606¾	Fuji Bank Y	740½	+ 48½	0.6	
1578	931	HSBC	1574	+ 3½	3.0	14.9
1537	930	HSBC HK	1520	+ 2½	3.1	14.4
585	385	Irish Perm	585		2.4	16.0
534	294½	Lloyds TSB	514	- ½	3.3	15.8
819½	566	Nat Aust Bk	791	- 19½	5.2	10.6
844½	605½	Nat West	812	- 1½	4.1	11.6
632½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	618½	- 11	3.8	13.7
836½	547	Stand Chart	793	- 16	1.9	15.5
£174½	£131½	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
374¾	264	Westpac	359½	- 10¼	3.7	11.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	702	Bass	859½	- 5	3.6	16.9
70	40	Bit for the Bar	65		3.4	17.8
205	161	Burtonwood Brwy	194	- 1½	3.6	17.4
149	92	City Centre Rest	149		1.9	38.1
738	463	Compass Grp	728½	+ 5	1.5	28.9
290½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	287½		2.3	17.6
540	413	Fuller Sm A	480		2.4	16.0
636	545½	Greenalls Grp	554	- ½	3.5	17.4
715	567½	Greene King	705½		2.8	17.4
285	164½	Grosvenor Inns	272½	+ 2½	3.6	20.2
[illegible]	204	Groupe Chez Ger	253½		1.4	34.9
357	276½	Hardy Hansn	293½		4.5	13.3
3475	2700	Hall J	2725		2.6	14.7
74½	45	Inn Business	74½	+ 1	2.6	
356	238	Mansfield	354		2.2	16.3
353½	252	Marston Thmp	297	- 1½	3.2	11.1
659	524	Morland	592½		2.8	15.6
188½	118	My Kinda Town	188		2.0	16.4
72½	39½	Paramount	42½			
606½	217	PizzaExpress	560½	- 1	0.6	43.0
438	245	Ramsdens (H)	370	+ 22½	1.7	
378½	138¾	Regent Inns	340½	- ½	0.9	32.5
700	601	Scot & New	675	+ 10	3.7	20.4
313	246	Vaux Group	278½	+ ½	4.8	13.3
1255	640	Wetherspoon JD	1135	..	1.0	28.9
819	672	Whitbread	782½	- ½	3.6	15.9
693	578	Wolvrhmptn D	683½	+ 2½	3.1	15.0
470½	397	Yates Bros	468½		1.0	30.3
650	425	Young 'A'	617½		3.1	24.6

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RACING: THREE-STRONG CHALLENGE GIVES NICHOLSON POWERFUL HAND IN VALUABLE CHASE

Call It A Day to post Kempton success

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

DAVID NICHOLSON can land the Racing Post Chase at Kempton this afternoon — but not with the horse he fancies most among his three runners in the £50,000-added race.

Nicholson believes Percy Smollett, runner-up behind Rough Quest 12 months ago, represents his best chance and he asked Adrian Maguire to ride the top weight in today's renewal. "I think Percy Smollett is the best I have ever had him and I asked Adrian to ride but he said he wanted to be on Call It A Day. He loves him," Nicholson said yesterday.

To complicate matters further, King Lucifer, theoretically the third string from Jackdaws Castle, is arguably the form choice of the race, judged on his excellent second behind General Command in the Great Yorkshire Chase.

However, I believe Maguire has made the right choice by selecting **Call It A Day**, a progressive seven-year-old who has never been out of the frame over fences. He was not far behind the best novices last term but began this campaign on a lenient handicap mark.

His defeat of Lord Gyllene at Uttoxeter, where he gave 16lb to the subsequent winner of three races, reads particularly well now. After a good post-freeze run in Ireland, when all Nicholson's runners were a gallop short, Call It A Day stepped up successfully in trip at Newbury 14 days ago and won well. He will not be inconvenienced by coming back to three miles, arguably his best distance, and runs off the same handicap mark.

An ability to handle all ground conditions, ranging from good to firm to soft, could be vital. Percy Smollett, having his first run this term, definitely appreciates the mud. King Lucifer, outpaced at crucial times this season, may also need more demanding going. His two chasing victories last term came in moderate races and he may just lack the necessary class.

See More Business will have his supporters after twice finishing runner-up to Dorans Pride, a leading Cheltenham Gold Cup fancy. However, his jumping can be sketchy and no novice has won this race since Don't Hesitate, who carried 9st 9lb to victory in 1977. Dextra Dove looks weighted up to his best while Encore Un Peu, without a win for two years, and Mudahim would appreciate further.

While Kempton's card should offer several Cheltenham Festival clues, Haydock will provide useful Aintree pointers. The Greenalls Grand National Trial has attracted an excellent field but is a tricky race for punters with useful horses like Suny Bay and Buckboard Bounce returning after an absence.

Lo Stregone runs off the same mark as when winning last year and, after excellent thirds behind Coome Hill in the Hennessy Gold Cup and Seven Towers, the subsequent Eider Chase winner, blinkers have been refitted to Tom Tate's out-and-out stayer. He can oblige.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, Nicholson can register a quick short-priced double with **Sanmartino and Viking Flagship** (Kempton 1.55 and 2.25) while the in-form Jimmy Fitzgerald could repeat the trick at Doncaster with **Cover Point** (4.15) and **Dual Image** (4.45).

On the same card, John O'Shea has found an ideal opportunity for **Bell Staffboy** (2.30) to complete a quick treble, while at Haydock, **Celibate** (3.50) can advertise his Arkle Challenge Trophy claims at the expense of Flying Instructor.

At Musselburgh, **Shanavogh** (3.10) should appreciate the drop in class after possibly needing the run when a disappointing favourite behind King Pin at Ayr last time. The in-form **Montrave**, a course-and-distance winner, can give weight away to his four rivals in the 3.45.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CALL IT A DAY
(4.10 Kempton Park)
Next best: Celibate
(3.50 Haydock Park)

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Royaltino leads Award over the last flight on his way to victory in the Bedfont Novices' Hurdle at Kempton Park yesterday

The Grey Monk favoured by return to shorter trip

HAYDOCK PARK

BBC1

1.15: In a tight juvenile handicap, the progressive **Rossel** makes some appeal. The winner of four races over hurdles for the in-form Peter Monteith, the former Michael Stoute-trained gelding jumps particularly well. The form of his latest success has been boosted by the subsequent victories of Jackson Park, Double Agent and Cry Baby. Font Romeu, a rare 25-1 winner for Martin Pipe last time, looks to have plenty of weight and Meltemison is a bigger danger.

1.45: Provided his confidence has not been affected by a heavy fall in Ireland last time, **The Grey Monk** will take a lot of beating. On his previous start he finished second to Coome Hill in the Hennessy at Newbury, where he was probably outstayed. The return to 2½ miles should suit him well. After making uncharacteristic jumping errors behind Go Ballistic on fast ground at Ascot, Major Bell should appreciate this easier surface and holds each-way claims.

2.15: Despite being unbeaten over hurdles, Juyush failed to impress at Sandown nine days ago when his jumping was far from fluent. **Mistinguett** is the clear form choice on her fourth to Make A Stand at Newbury 14 days ago and her course and distance success over Dato Star and Bimsey last month. Moorish bounced back to form last Saturday but that was over half a mile further on softer going.

2.45: see above.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

KEMPTON PARK

CHANNEL 4

3.00: The admirably game Stately Home and Greenback both like to force the pace so there will no hanging around. Although Land Afar is weighted to reverse Sandown form with Stately Home, Paul Webber's runner finds little off the bridle.

Fine Thyne has won all three chasing starts at Kempton and holds claims but **Around The Gale** is the choice. David Gandolfo's well-regarded six-year-old jumps particularly well and has plenty of speed, so should be able to keep tabs on the front runners before pouncing in the straight.

3.35: Kerawi may have been slightly fortunate to beat White Sea at Newbury 15 days ago when Charlie Swan appeared to make an error of judgment on the runner-up. Nevertheless, that was a useful performance in a strongly-run race and he is the form choice. Whether he will reproduce that on this sharper track is questionable and **Grief** looks a viable each-way alternative.

His second behind Shadow Leader (winner since) in a fast-run novice hurdle at Folkestone is now looking a decent effort as fourth-placed Kings Witness won easily at Huntingdon on Thursday.

4.10: see above.

4.40: **Ocean Hawk's** game defeat of Pleasure Shared at Haydock five weeks ago gives him a favourite's chance here with five runners out of the handicap and question marks against his main rivals. Escartefigue has been crying out for this kind of trip but still looks poorly handicapped.

Gillan Cove, without a win for two years, is making his seasonal debut while Castlekellyleader, Pharanear and Conquering Leader are returning to hurdling after enjoying mixed fortunes over fences. Of those, Pharanear makes the most appeal as an each-way alternative.

RICHARD EVANS

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.55 Sanmartino
2.25 Viking Flagship
3.00 Fine Thyne
3.35 Summer Spell
4.10 Encore Un Peu
4.40 Pharanear
5.10 Sir Prize

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.35 KERAWI.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.55 DOVECOTE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £8,792: 2m) (7 runners)

101 11 SANMARTINO 32 (CD,F,S) (K Abdalla) D Nicholson 5-11-10 .... A Maguire 99
102 CLASSY LAD (M Buckley) N Henderson 7-11-3 .... R Dunwoody —
103 2 GLIDE PATH 9 (B Shirazi) J Jenkins 8-11-3 .... N Williamson 81
104 115414 MISTER RM 29 (D,F,G,S) (F Mills, W Mills) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 .... C Llewellyn 92
105 26-31 NO PATTERN 26 (G) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-11-3 .... A P McCoy 94
106 3 POLYDAMAS 14 (M Boase) K Bailey 5-11-3 .... D Bridgwater 95
107 3511F SERENUS 7 (D,G,S) (W & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 4-11-0 .... R Johnson 80

BETTING: 4-7 Sanmartino, 7-2 Serenus, 8-1 No Pattern, 12-1 Polydamas, 14-1 Mister Rm, 16-1 others.

1996: KIMANICKY 6-11-3 M A Fitzgerald (7-1) N Henderson 8 ran

2.25 EMBLEM CHASE (£6,645: 2m) (5 runners)

201 1121F-U ARCTIC KINSMAN 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-0 C Llewellyn 74
202 11113/2- MARTHA'S SON 459 (D,F,G,S) (P Hartigan) T Forster 10-12-0 .... N Williamson 90
203 1212-24 VIKING FLAGSHIP 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 10-12-0 A Maguire 99
204 0-21111 CELIBATE 97 (CD,F,G,S) (Stanford Bridge Partnership) C Mann 6-11-7 .... 2nd pref 89
205 600153 MARLINGFORD 14 (G,S) (Miss J Seaton) Mrs J Jordan 10-11-0 .... L McGrath 50

BETTING: 4-7 Viking Flagship, 5-2 Martha's Son, 6-1 Arctic Kinsman, 50-1 Marlingford.

1996: VIKING FLAGSHIP 9-12-0 A Maguire (1-2 fav) D Nicholson 5 ran

3.00 PENDIL NOVICES CHASE

C4

(Grade II: £12,160: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

301 23F111 GREENBACK 58 (CD,F,G,S) (J Joseph) P Hobbs 6-11-10 .... J Frost 88
302 241211 STATELY HOME 21 (D,F,G) (P Bowen) P Bowen 6-11-10 .... R Johnson 94
303 0/12111 FINE THYNE 35 (CD,F,G,S) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 8-11-7 .... N Williamson 96
304 151-121 AROUND THE GALE 68 (D,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-11-3 .... R Dunwoody 93
305 122212 LAND AFAR 21 (C,F,G,S) (T Ford) P Webber 10-11-7 .... A Maguire 99
306 256-122 GUINDA 14 (BF,F,G) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-2 .... C Llewellyn 80

BETTING: 7-4 Around The Gale, 7-2 Greenback, 4-1 Land Afar, 5-1 Stately Home, Fine Thyne, 14-1 Guinda.

1996: DRABORGIE 5-10-9 C Maude (8-11 fav) M Pipe 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

GREENBACK beat Mister Drum 1¾l in novice chase over course and distance (good to firm). STATELY HOME beat LAND AFAR (7lb better off) 1½l in 6-runner grade I Scilly Isles Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). FINE THYNE beat Paul's Brother 6l in 4-runner novice chase here (3m, good to firm). AROUND THE GALE beat Bayline Star 8l in 8-runner novice chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). LAND AFAR beat Mister Drum 5l in 5-runner novice chase here (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. GUINDA 2½l 2nd of 11 to Harvest View in novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good).
Selection: STATELY HOME

3.35 VOICE NEWSPAPER ADONIS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: 4-Y-O: £8,750: 2m) (10 runners)

C4

401 01251 RED RAJA 7 (D,G,S) (J Alt) P Mitchell 11-6 .... M Richards 80
402 14B1 KERAWI 15 (D,G) (M Archer, Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 11-2 .... C Llewellyn 99
403 315 SUMMER SPELL 15 (CD,F) (W & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 11-2 .... R Dunwoody 83
404 ALLSTARS EXPRESS 107F (This Horse Is For Sale Pipers) K Bailey 10-12 .... P Hide 53
405 222334 BEN BOWDEN 70 (F) (Mrs N Malby) S Woodman 10-12 .... D Bridgwater 66
406 4 CHABROL 22 (T Conway) T Clement 10-12 .... R Johnson 76
407 2 GRIEF 23 (M Balcomb) D Elsworth 10-12 .... P Holley —
408 L'OPERA 161F (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) D Nicholson 10-12 .... A Maguire —
409 35 PROVINCE 70 (J Brown) C Mann 10-12 .... J Magee 50
410 2410 FAIRLY SHARP 104 (D,F) (Ms C Breay) G Roe 10-7 .... N Williamson —

BETTING: 2-1 Kerawi, 4-1 Summer Spell, 9-2 L'Opera, 5-1 Red Raja, 8-1 Grief, 10-1 Allstars Express, 14-1 others.

1996: ZABADI 4-10-12 A Maguire (7-4 fav) D Nicholson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

RED RAJA beat Far Dawn 6l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). KERAWI beat White Sea 1¾l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) with SUMMER SPELL 30l 5th. BEN BOWDEN 25l 4th of 9 to Serenus in grade II Junior Hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft) with PROVINCE 15l 5th and KERAWI brought down 2 out. CHABROL 12½l 4th of 13 to Cheerful Aspect in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft) with RED RAJA (1lb worse off) neck 5th. GRIEF 3l 2nd of 10 to Shadow Leader in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 100yd, good to soft). FAIRLY SHARP beat Quill Project 5l in 21-runner maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. Oct 96.
Selection: KERAWI

4.10 RACING POST CHASE

C4

(Handicap: grade III: £51,300: 3m) (9 runners)

501 12/122P- PERCY SMOLLETT 347 (D,F,G,S) (R Murray) D Nicholson 9-11-10 .... N Williamson 92
502 111-12 SEE MORE BUSINESS 20 (G,S) (P Barber, J Keighley) P Nicholls 7-11-7 R Dunwoody 94
503 402222- ENCORE UN PEU 329 (G,S) (V Nally) M Pipe 10-11-4 .... A P McCoy 95
504 F-6P114 DEXTRA DOVE 8 (CD,F,G,S) (Dextra Lighting) S Earle 10-11-3 (3ex) .... D Bridgwater 91
505 122-131 CALL IT A DAY 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Lane) D Nicholson 7-11-1 .... A Maguire 90
506 PP/5P2-5 SIBTON ABBEY 8 (V,D,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 12-11-1 .... P Henley (3) 90
507 13F-332 KING LUCIFER 28 (D,G,S) (A Davies) D Nicholson 8-10-7 .... R Johnson 99
508 0013-42 MUDAHIM 14 (D,F,G,S) (In Touch Racing Club) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-2 .... R Farrant 90
509 36/3P/5 FOREST SUN 14 (F,G,S) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 12-10-2 .... B Clifford 80

BETTING: 9-4 Call It A Day, 3-1 See More Business, 5-1 King Lucifer, Percy Smollett, 6-1 Encore Un Peu, 10-1 Dextra Dove, 12-1 Mudahim, 33-1 Sibton Abbey, 50-1 Forest Sun.

1996: ROUGH QUEST 10-10-8 R Dunwoody (3-1 fav) T Casey 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

PERCY SMOLLETT 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Rough Quest in grade III Racing Post Handicap Chase over course and distance (soft) on penultimate start, Feb 96. SEE MORE BUSINESS 8l 2nd of 4 to Dorans Pride in the grade II Scalp Novices' Chase at Leopardstown (2m 5f, good to yielding). ENCORE UN PEU 1¼l 2nd of 27 to Rough Quest in Grade III Grand National Handicap Chase at Aintree (4m 4f, good), March 96. DEXTRA DOVE beat Northern Hide 2½l in grade II Diamond Handicap Chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. CALL IT A DAY beat River Mandate 1¼l in 6-runner handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good). MUDAHIM 8l 2nd of 9 to Lord Gyllene in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (4m 2f, good).
Selection: CALL IT A DAY (nap)

4.40 RENDLESHAM HURDLE

C4

(Limited handicap: grade II: £12,035: 3m 110yd) (11 runners)

601 38-1211 OCEAN HAWK 35 (CD,F,G,S) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 .... C Llewellyn 95
602 1432-53 ESCARTEFIGUE 15 (S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 5-11-3 .... D Bridgwater 99
603 111-F4P CASTLEKELLYLEADER 66 (G,S) (P Barber, M Coburn, T Curry) P Nicholls 8-10-11 P Hide —
604 0P2235- GILLAN COVE 383 (D,S) (Ferrum Racing) R Alner 8-10-9 .... A P McCoy 97
605 P30-31F PHARANEAR 70 (D,F,G,S) (Stainless Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 7-10-9 .... A Maguire 98
606 13/21-2F CONQUERING LEADER 28 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Proctor) N Henderson 8-10-8 .... R Dunwoody 89
607 3P8434 TOP SPIN 17 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Duncan) J Jenkins 8-10-7 .... N Williamson 81
608 271P10/ FATACK 770 (F,G,S) (J Bissell) A Jones 8-10-7 .... S Curran —
609 4-22230 WEE WINDY 9 (CD,F,G,S) (W Gale) J Gifford 8-10-7 .... L Aspell (3) 77
610 0-11215 TARRS BRIDGE 21 (B,D,F,G) (The Tuesday Syndicate) C Mann 6-10-7 .... J Magee (3) 79
611 413132 OLYMPIAN 36 (B,D,F,S) (J Neville) J Neville 10-10-7 .... R Johnson 79

Long handicap: Top Spin 10-0, Fatack 8-12, Wee Windy 9-11, Tarrs Bridge 9-7, Olympian 9-4

BETTING: 7-4 Ocean Hawk, 5-1 Escartefigue, 6-1 Conquering Leader, Pharanear, 10-1 Wee Windy, Tarrs Bridge, 12-1 others.

1996: SEE ENOUGH 8-10-7 A Tory (100-1) R Buckler 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

OCEAN HAWK beat Pleasure Shared ¾l in 5-runner grade II Long Distance Hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, good to firm) with TOP SPIN (7lb better off) 15l 3rd. ESCARTEFIGUE 16½l 5th of 7 to Cockney Lad in grade I AIG Europe Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, good) on penultimate start. GILLAN COVE neck 2nd of 24 to Great Easby in Gold Card Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good to soft) with PHARANEAR (4lb better off) ¾l 3rd. March 96. CONQUERING LEADER 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Mainlk in novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good) on penultimate start. TARRS BRIDGE beat Southern Nights 6l in 9-runner novice Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: OCEAN HAWK

5.10 KEMPTON STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,413: 2m) (17 runners)

1 1 ARCTIC CAMPER 38 (D,G) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 5-11-10 .... A Maguire —
2 L1 SCORING PEDIGREE 68 (G) (Wisford Racing Pours) J Mullins 5-11-10 S Curran —
3 5 BEN EIGER 63 (Major W Gibson, M Gibson) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 M Keighley (7) —
4 04 CALDEBROOK 19 (BF) (Mrs D Wilkinson) J Gifford 6-11-3 .... S Laird (7) —
5 6 COUNTRY BEAU 33 (Mrs J Pepplatt) J King 5-11-3 .... T J Murphy —
6 HOUR HORSE (Major I Manning) N Hawke 6-11-3 .... R Greene —
7 MONTROE (Miss M Tufnell) R Rowe 5-11-3 .... D O'Sullivan —
8 6 WISLEY WARRIOR 31 (The Wisley Golf Pairs) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-3 C Llewellyn —
9 2 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 128 (G Morris) P Bowen 5-11-3 .... R Johnson —
10 31 MISTER ERMYN 17 (D,F) (J Daniels) L Montague Hall 4-11-8 .... A P McCoy —
11 00 ANTGOTWON 29 (J Jiggens) A Hide 6-10-12 .... P Hide —
12 00-0 TUPENNY SMOKE 30 (Roe Racing Ltd) G Roe 5-10-12 .... P Henley (3) —
13 JET SPECIALS (Jet Stationery Co Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-7 .... R Farrant —
14 3 KINGSWOOD IMPERIAL 19 (Allied Manufacturing Co) R O'Sullivan 4-10-7 N Williamson —
15 3 SIR PRIZE 15 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 4-10-7 .... B Clifford —
16 THE LIGHTMAKER (Dextra Lighting Systems) S Earle 4-10-7 .... D Bridgwater —
17 GRACIOUS IMP (Marrow Hill Plant Hire Ltd) J Jenkins 4-10-2 .... N T Egan (7) —

BETTING: 2-1 Arctic Camper, 6-1 Mister Ermyn, 10-1 Scoring Pedigree, Woodstock Wanderer, 12-1 others.

1996: JOHN DRUMM 5-11-3 Mr P Scott (14-1) P Webber 19 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs A Perrett	3	4	75.0	P Henley	3	12	25.0
D Gandolfo	7	17	41.2	N Williamson	14	66	21.2
C Mann	3	9	33.3	A Maguire	19	90	21.1
P Webber	3	9	33.3	W Marston	4	20	20.0
R Alner	9	30	30.0	R Dunwoody	21	112	18.8
T Forster	3	10	30.0	A P McCoy	9	57	15.8

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.20), *Newcastle (2.10), Plumpton (2.00)*
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.00), Catterick (1.50), Leicester (2.10)
WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10), Taunton (2.20), Wetherby (2.00)
THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.25), Huntingdon (2.00), Ludlow (2.10), Wetherby (2.20)
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.15), Kelso (2.20), Newbury (2.00), Plumpton (2.10)
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Doncaster (C4, 12.50), Newbury (BBC, 1.15), Warwick (1.30)

Flat meetings in bold

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HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

1.15 Meltemison
1.45 The Grey Monk
2.15 Mistinguett
2.45 LO STREGONE (nap)
3.20 Absolutly Equiname
3.50 Celibate
4.25 Harris Croft Star

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.15 SCHLITZ VICTOR LUDORUM NOVICES HURDLE

BBC1

(Limited handicap: 4-Y-O: £5,016: 2m) (7 runners)

1 0041 FONT ROMEU 11 (D,S) (Pond House Gold) M Pipe 11-10 .... C F Swan 93
2 413211 ROSSEL 36 (D,F,G) (A Mennie, P Monteith) 11-10 .... A Dobbin 99
3 521331 JACKSON PARK 26 (D,G) (C Stevens) T Easterby 11-4 .... G Bradley 94
4 242P1 GLOBE RUNNER 14 (D,G) (G & P Barker Ltd) J J O'Neill 10-11 .... A Roche 96
5 10 SHU GAA 29 (CD,S) (A Jaffeh) O Sherwood 10-11 .... J Osborne 97
6 011 NO MORE HASSLE 23 (D,G,S) (No Hassle Partners) Mrs M Reveley 10-11 .... P Niven 95
7 0452 MELTEMISON 10 (BF) (Lucky Seven Racing) M Hammond 10-7 .... R Garritty 93

BETTING: 2-1 Font Romeu, 5-2 Rossel, 5-1 No More Hassle, 6-1 Jackson Park, 7-1 Meltemison, 8-1 Globe Runner, 16-1 Shu Gaa.

1996: MARCHANT MING 11-4 R Garritty (7-1) M Hammond 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

FONT ROMEU beat Circus Star 5l in 20-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). ROSSEL beat Soldat neck in 12-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good) with JACKSON PARK (7lb better off) ¾l 3rd and MELTEMISON (9lb better off) 7½l 5th. JACKSON PARK beat Royal Action 1½l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). GLOBE RUNNER beat Samaraed 2½l in 11-runner novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). SHU GAA beat What Jim Wants 12l in 12-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. NO MORE HASSLE beat Danbys Gorse neck in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft).
Selection: GLOBE RUNNER

1.45 BLACK DEATH VODKA HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1

(£14,332: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 111-12F THE GREY MONK 20 (CD,G,S) (A Duff) G Richards 9-12-0 .... A Dobbin 99
2 F331-43 UNCLE ERNIE 84 (C,D,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Fitzgerald 12-11-8 .... P Carberry 95
3 /F2P4/1- COONAWARA 465 (D,G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 11-11-6 .... A Thornton 91
4 111-123 MAJOR BELL 63 (D,F,G,S) (I Mactiernan) A Whillans 9-11-4 .... J Osborne 90
5 1P-6P40 TERAO 21 (D,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 11-10-4 .... C F Swan 93
6 1F-P242 SPANISH LIGHT 17 (CD,F,G,S) (J Barton) J Barton 8-10-3 .... C Maude 91
7 12FP34 IN TRUTH 21 (G,S) (Mrs E Newton) S Gollings 9-10-0 .... K Gaule 91

Long handicap: In Truth 9-11

BETTING: 8-11 The Grey Monk, 7-2 Major Bell, 8-1 Coonawara, 9-1 Uncle Ernie, 12-1 Terao, 20-1 others.

1996: MORCELI 8-11-10 P Carberry (7-4 fav) H Johnson 2 ran

FORM FOCUS

THE GREY MONK 4l 2nd of 11 to Coome Hill in Hennessy Gold Cup handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. UNCLE ERNIE about 37l 3rd of 6 to Ask Tom in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 1f, good). COONAWARA beat Glemot 3l in 10-runner limited handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good), Nov 95. MAJOR BELL beat Flapjack Lad 2½l in 8-runner handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Nov 96. SPANISH LIGHT 2½l 2nd of 4 to Coolree in handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to firm). IN TRUTH 14l 4th of 6 to Kalwekta King in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: THE GREY MONK

2.15 STRETTON LEISURE SELECT HURDLE

BBC1

(£10,065: 2m) (7 runners)

1 0151-60 TRAGIC HERO 35 (B,CD,G,S) (Knight Hawks Partners) M Pipe 5-11-12 .... C F Swan 86
2 142114 MISTINGUETT 14 (CD,F,G,S) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 .... C Maude 99
3 111 JUYUSH 9 (D,S) (W Stott) J Old 5-11-4 .... J Osborne 83
4 1614-F0 KINGSFOLD PET 85 (D,G,S) (Execs of G Hope) M Haynes 6-11-4 .... D Skyrme 91
5 3P00-00 KISSAIR 14 (D,S) (T Bessant) N Henderson 6-11-4 .... J R Kavanagh 86
6 1-36460 MARCHANT MING 7 (CD,G,S) (A Roper) M Hammond 5-11-4 .... R Garritty 82
7 24/80-02 MOORISH 7 (D,S) (A Fitzpatrick) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0 .... D Walsh 98

BETTING: 2-1 Mistinguett, 5-2 Juyush, 7-2 Moorish, 8-1 Kingsfold Pet, Tragic Hero, 10-1 Kissair, 20-1 Marchant Ming.

1996: MYSILV 6-11-7 A Maguire (4-6 fav) C Egerton 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

TRAGIC HERO beat Dreams End neck in 19-runner grade III Swinton Handicap Hurdle over course and distance (good), May 96. MISTINGUETT beat Dato Star 4l in 9-runner grade II Champion Trial Hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start, with TRAGIC HERO (7lb better off) 64l 6th. JUYUSH beat Glide Path 21l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). KINGSFOLD PET 53l 7th of 10 to Mister Morose in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). MARCHANT MING 8½l 4th of 7 to Shining Edge in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to soft). MOORISH 1l 2nd of 12 to Brave Tornado in limited handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: MISTINGUETT

2.45 GREENALLS GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE (Grade III: £49,984: 3m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

BBC1

1 3PP-201 COULDNT BE BETTER 30 (C,F,G,S) (R Whittle) C Brooks 10-11-10 .... G Bradley 96
2 1214-33 LO STREGONE 35 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 11-10-9 .... C F Swan 98
3 1F/151-5 SUNY BAY 94 (S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 8-10-8 .... J Osborne 99
4 2125-3U AVRO ANSON 21 (F,G) (B Stirton) M Camacho 9-10-7 .... NON-RUNNER 98
5 21F5/1P BELMONT KING 20 (S) (Mrs B Bond) P Nicholls 9-10-6 .... C Maude 94
6 2252/10- BUCKBOARD BOUNCE 469 (F,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 11-10-6 .... P Carberry 90
7 0F0-114 INTO THE RED 36 (BF,F,G,S) (J Hockie) Mrs M Reveley 13-10-0 .... A Dobbin 91
8 11F1-35 ST MELLION FAIRWAY 36 (G,S) (St Mellion Estates) D Nicholson 8-10-0. A Thornton 87

Long handicap: Into The Red 9-8, St Mellion Fairway 9-7.

BETTING: 7-4 Lo Stregone, 4-1 Suny Bay, Couldnt Be Better, 5-1 Belmont King, 9-1 Into The Red, 10-1 others.

1996: LO STREGONE 10-10-8 C F Swan (7-2) T Tate 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

COULDNT BE BETTER beat Coynmandel 2½l in 14-runner grade II Thyestes Handicap Chase at Gowran Park (3m, good). LO STREGONE 12l 3rd of 13 to Seven Towers in handicap chase at Kelso (4m, good) with INTO THE RED (8lb worse off) 3¼l 4th and ST MELLION FAIRWAY (7lb better off) 5l 5th. SUNY BAY beat Do Be Brief 13l in 7-runner handicap chase at Newbury (3m, soft) on penultimate start. March 96. BELMONT KING beat Trying Again 1¾l in 7-runner grade II Rehearsal Limited Handicap Chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. BUCKBOARD BOUNCE beat Maibank 5l in 6-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start, Oct 95.
Selection: LO STREGONE

3.20 SPORTING LIFE MAIDEN HURDLE (£3,165: 2m 6f) (16 runners)

1 2/5-32 ABSOLUTLY EQUINAME 29 (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 5-11-7 .... B Powell 99
2 1-63 BARBARY FALCON 16 (F) (P Jones) P Jones 7-11-7 .... G Upton 92
3 00/ BATTLE CREEK 700 (Blakeley Pastures) J Norton 7-11-7 .... W Dwan —
4 3/ DOCS BOY 640 (D Ross) O Sherwood 7-11-7 .... J Osborne —
5 0 FAYETTE COUNTY 11 (Mrs J Magnier) J J O'Neill 6-11-7 .... A Thornton 81
6 06-52 GROSVENOR 16 (BF) (R Ogden) G Richards 6-11-7 .... P Carberry 97
7 PALARICO (Mrs J Webber) P Webber 7-11-7 .... R Bellamy —
8 U SILVER GROVE 84 (Clayton Bigley Partners) J J O'Neill 7-11-7 .... D Jewett (7) —
9 02-42 SIR BOB 14 (J Smart) W McKeown 5-11-7 .... A Dobbin 94
10 P0 SOVEREIGN PASS 30 (Welburn Racing) R Woodhouse 5-11-7 .... C F Swan —
11 60/P/4 STORMY SESSION 14 (C Haycock) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 .... D Walsh 65
12 06 SUPREMO 32 (Mrs L Harper) M Wilkinson 6-11-7 .... T J O'Sullivan 61
13 2- SWARF 476 (A Sinnott) S Brookshaw 7-11-7 .... G Bradley —
14 THIS TIME LUCKY (D Equine Supplies) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 .... C Maude —
15 30-026 LOVE THE BLUES 14 (B) (Mrs C Scott) D Nicholson 5-11-2 .... R Massey (3) 97
16 02 TREMPLIN 16 (BF) (W Robins) N Henderson 6-11-2 .... J R Kavanagh 90

BETTING: 4-1 Sir Bob, 9-2 Grosvenor, 5-1 Tremplin, 6-1 Absolutly Equiname, 8-1 Barbary Falcon, 10-1 Love The Blues, 16-1 others

1996: MACGEORGE 6-11-7 P McLoughlin (7-2) R Lee 19 ran

3.50 BELLCHARM RENAULT NOVICES CHASE (£4,486 2m) (4 runners)

1 0-21111 CELIBATE 97 (D,F,G,S) (Stanford Bridge Partners) C Mann 6-11-12 .... J Railton 99
2 611P-03 FLYING INSTRUCTOR 7 (F,S) (Lady Lyell) P Webber 7-11-5 .... R Bellamy 97
3 P/0P0-2 FRANK KNOWS 11 (Mrs C Peacock) T George 7-11-5 .... P Carberry 65
4 0-6PR52 HEATHYARDS BOY 5 (B,G,S) (L Morgan) D McCain 7-11-5 .... D Walsh 50

BETTING: 4-7 Celibate, 2-1 Flying Instructor, 10-1 Frank Knows, 16-1 Heathyards Boy

1996. SPANISH LIGHT 7-11-12 M Dwyer (11-10) G Richards 4 ran

4.25 TARVIN STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,557: 2m) (12 runners)

1 ARCTIC FOX (J Mitchell) Miss H Knight 5-11-7 .... Mr A Wintle (7) —
2 0 BUCKS REEF 25 (J Astbury) A J Wilson 5-11-7 .... D Fortt (3) —
3 0 PERRINO FRUITS 18 (G Ferrigno) M Meagher 6-11-7 .... G Tormey —
4 HARRIS CROFT STAR (R Nuttall) D Nicholson 6-11-7 .... R Massey (3) —
5 POLITICAL POWER (W Sinker) W Jenks 5-11-7 .... Mr A Mitchell —
6 4 PORTMAN 28 (P Leyden) W McKeown 5-11-7 .... P Midgley (3) —
7 SHROPSHIRE GALE (A Stennett) S Brookshaw 6-11-7 .... X Aizpuru (7) —
8 4 LINWOOD 11 (Emral Lakes) G Richards 6-11-2 .... Mr R Hale —
9 DONNYBROOK (R Smith) R Woodhouse 4-10-11 .... B Grattan (5) —
10 SHAWKEY (Clayton Bigley Partners) D McCain 4-10-11 .... D Walsh —
11 LAST ACTION (Mrs S Blakeley) J Norton 4-10-6 .... G Lee (3) —
12 5 WISE GUNNER 18 (J Ennis) M Pipe 4-10-6 .... G Supple (7) —

BETTING: 5-2 Harris Croft Star, 5-1 Portman, Wise Gunner, 6-1 Arctic Fox, Linwood, 10-1 Political Power, 16-1 others.

1996: BALLAD MINSTREL 4-10-6 E Callaghan (9-1 fav) J Fitzgerald 19 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Forster	3	7	42.9	C F Swan	4	16	25.0
G Richards	32	105	30.5	C Maude	5	22	22.7
T Tate	5	17	29.4	G Bradley	8	36	22.2
N Henderson	3	11	27.3	A Dobbin	11	56	19.6
J Fitzgerald	14	53	26.4	J Osborne	3	20	15.0
N Twiston-Davies	16	63	25.4	P Niven	10	72	13.9

MARK JACKSON, who runs a livery yard at Westhide, near Hereford, is virtually playing at home today when he saddles runners at the North Hereford meeting (Carl Evans writes). Jackson, whose leg is still in plaster after a fall in November, has winning chances with Perfect Light, although stablemate Grimley Gale will only run if the ground is not too soft.

TODAY'S POINT-TO-POINT MEETINGS: Berwickshire at Friars Haugh, W of Kelso (first race 12.30); Bolventor Harriers at Lamells, 8m SW of Launceston (11.30); Brocklesby at Brocklesby Park, 10m W of Grimsby (1.30); N Hereford at Whitwick Manor, 6m NE of Hereford (12.00); Sinnington at Duncombe Park, 12m E of Thirsk (12.30); Suffolk at Ampton, 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (12.30). TOMORROW: Mid Surrey Drag at Charing, 12m E of Maidstone (12.30).

COURSE SPECIALISTS

DONCASTER: Trainers: N Twiston-Davies, 6 winners from 19 runners, 31.6%; N Henderson, 4 from 14, 28.6%; T Easterby, 4 from 15, 26.7%; G Richards, 8 from 37, 21.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 74, 20.3%. Jockeys: P Niven, 12 winners from 55 rides, 21.8%; J A McCarthy, 3 from 19, 15.8%; R Garritty, 5 from 43, 11.6%. (Only qualifiers).

MUSSELBURGH: Trainers: M Hammond, 30 winners from 119 runners, 25.2%; C Parker, 11 from 46, 23.9%; Mrs M Reveley, 12 from 51, 23.5%; N Tinkler, 8 from 34, 23.5%; B Ellison, 3 from 13, 23.1%. Jockeys: Foster, 3 winners from 15 rides, 20.0%; Parker, 7 from 43, 16.3%; J Callaghan, 6 from 39, 15.4%; B Storey, 18 from 132, 13.6%.

LINGFIELD: Trainers: M Bell, 8 winners from 35 runners, 22.9%; Lord Huntingdon, 41 from 184, 22.3%; D Nicholls, 9 from 44, 20.5%; L Montague Hall, 11 from 56, 19.6%. Jockeys: D Holland, 29 winners from 126 rides, 23.0%; S Whitworth, 35 from 170, 20.6%; W Ryan, 18 from 104, 17.3%; D McKeown, 18 from 107, 16.8%; C Scally, 5 from 34, 14.7%.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Sousse. 2.30 Bell Staffboy. 3.05 Star Rage. 3.40 Fitzwilliam. 4.15 Noyan. 4.45 Dual Image. 5.15 All Done.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 OPEN MORNING SELLING HURDLE
(£1,640: 2m 110yd) (20 runners)

1 3135 CULRAIN 102 (F) T Caldwell 6-11-9 Michael Brennan (3)
2 313 PROUD IMAGE 9 (D,F) G McCourt 5-11-9 D Fortt (3)
3 51/ DAME PROSPECT 799 (S) Miss M Rowland 6-11-4 P Midgley (3)
4 0 GREEN KING 30 A Jones 5-11-3 S McNeill
5 MAGICAL BLUES 823F Miss A Embiricos 5-11-3 J Ryan
6 0332 OAKBURY 10 (BF) Miss L Siddall 5-11-3 T Siddall (7)
7 FP6- QUIXOTRY 502 J Mackie 6-11-3 T Eley
8 -000 AUTUMN FLAME 16 D Brennan 6-10-12 M Brennan
9 00 MILL DANCER 11 P Haslam 5-10-12 E Husband (3)
10 443P RIVERBANK ROSE 68 (V) W Clay 6-10-12 Guy Lewis (3)
11 4P00 SHARMOOR 14 Miss L Siddall 5-10-12 O Pears
12 4226 BLUNTSWOOD HALL 16 R Hollinshead 4-10-7 Gary Lyons
13 4020 BOY BLAKENEY 35 Mrs S Smith 4-10-7 R Guest
14 00 CODE RED 31 W Muir 4-10-7 A Bates (5)
15 U603 ARCH ANGEL 31 G Charles-Jones 4-10-2 X Aizpuru (7)
16 0042 HAWANAFA 12 (B) J Moore 4-10-2 W McFarland
17 RAW DEAL 289F G Barnett 4-10-2 S Wynne
18 RENO'S TREASURE 17F J A Harris 4-10-2 D Gallagher
19 0004 SOUSSE 8 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-2 G Lee (3)
20 5PP0 TRIANNA 24 R Brotherton 4-10-2 L Harvey

7-2 Proud Image, 5-1 Oakbury, 6-1 Culrain, 8-1 Boy Blakeney, Bluntswood Hall, 10-1 Sousse, Arch Angel, 12-1 Hawanafa, Riverbank Rose, 14-1 others.

2.30 COME BEHIND THE SCENES NOVICES CHASE (£2,973: 3m) (4)

1 0-11 BELL STAFFBOY 14 (C,F,S) J O'Shea 8-11-10 Michael Brennan (3)
2 2412 MONYMOSS 32 (G) Mrs S Smith 8-11-4 R Guest
3 0PF0 MR MOTIVATOR 30 T Keddy 7-10-12 S McNeill
4 22-0 SEYMOUR SPY 119 Mrs A Hewitt 8-10-12 S Wynne

4-5 Bell Staffboy, 6-4 Monymoss, 8-1 Seymour Spy, 20-1 Mr Motivator.

3.05 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,897: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 22U0 CALLISOE BAY 28 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 8-12-0 J A McCarthy
2 0-31 STAR RAGE 14 (D,F,G) J L Harris 7-11-12 D Gallagher
3 12P- FRICKLEY 364 (CD,G,S) G Richards 11-11-12 Michael Brennan (3)
4 00-4 SPEEDWELL PRINCE 84 (D,F) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-11 T Jenks
5 1141 SHINING EDGE 28 (CD,F,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-3 B Fenton
6 1PU- SESAME SEED 371 (C,G,S) N Henderson 9-11-1 W McFarland
7 2552 DESERT FIGHTER 14 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-7 P Niven
8 4142 BARFORD SOVEREIGN 18 (BF,F,G) J Fanshawe 5-10-5 R Guest
9 -PP0 DECIDE YOURSELF 7 (D,F,S) T Thomson Jones 7-10-3 J Culloty
10 5021 SAMANID 8 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 5-10-2 O Pears

7-2 Star Rage, 4-1 Frickley, 5-1 Callisoe Bay, 6-1 Speedwell Prince, 8-1 Shining Edge, Barford Sovereign, 10-1 Sesame Seed, Desert Fighter, 12-1 others.

3.40 RACING IS FUN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,485: 2m 4f) (12)

1 221 FITZWILLIAM 18 (F) I Balding 11-4 Mr A Balding (7)
2 102 DISALLOWED 25 (G) Miss H Knight 10-13 J Culloty
3 02 AMAZING SAIL 14 Miss M Milligan 10-12 Michael Brennan (3)
4 3U ANNA SOLEIL 11 O Sherwood 10-12 J A McCarthy
5 P0 GULF OF SIAM 18 J Mackie 10-12 T Eley
6 R330 NOIR ESPRIT 22 J Carr 10-12 F Leahy (3)
7 00 PORT VALENSKA 14 (B) J L Harris 10-12 D Gallagher
8 00 RECRUITMENT 33 J Turner 10-12 M Brennan
9 00 STAR BLAKENEY 25 G Barnett 10-12 S Wynne
10 30 TAGATAY 22 M Camacho 10-12 R Guest
11 3F03 TOPAGLOW 11 P Dalton 10-12 B Fenton
12 50 PRECIOUS ISLAND 11 P Dalton 10-7 J Supple

7-4 Fitzwilliam, 5-2 Disallowed, 4-1 Anna Soleil, 8-1 Tagatay, 12-1 Topaglow, 16-1 Noir Esprit, Amazing Sail, 20-1 others.

4.15 BAWTRY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,600: 2m 3f 110yd) (7)

1 1B12 NOYAN 14 (BF,F,G) R Fahey 7-12-0 P Niven
2 3212 KENMORE-SPEED 66 (BF,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-11-4 R Guest
3 2623 KEY TO MOYADE 39 M Wilkinson 7-10-13 S McNeill
4 -241 COVER POINT 9 (D,F,S) J Fitzgerald 6-10-13 R Garritty
5 5614 STAGE PLAYER 21 (F,G,S) Miss C Caroe 11-10-7 D Leahy
6 3501 KOO'S PROMISE 16 (F,G) C Popham 6-10-1 T Dascombe (3)
7 FU43 GLAMANGLITZ 19 P Dalton 7-10-0 B Fenton

9-4 Noyan, 3-1 Kenmore-Speed, 4-1 Cover Point, 6-1 Key To Moyade, 8-1 Stage Player, 10-1 Koo's Promise, 12-1 Glamanglitz.

4.45 FINNINGLEY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,885: 2m 3f 110yd) (4)

1 4-P3 OVER THE POLE 21 (D,G) P Chamings 10-12-0 Mr C Bonner (3)
2 6141 DUAL IMAGE 8 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-11-12 R Garritty
3 15-5 JASON'S BOY 9 (F,G,S) J Bradley 7-10-5 B Fenton
4 024U KARENASTINO 9 Mrs S Smith 6-10-0 R Wilkinson (7)

1-2 Dual Image, 5-2 Over The Pole, 8-1 Jason's Boy, 12-1 Karenastino.

5.15 DONCASTER INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Mares: £1,035: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 261 COUNTRY ORCHID 25 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-9 P Niven
2 MEMSAHIB OFESTEEM S Gollings 6-11-2 K Gaule
3 330 RACHEL LOUISE 30 T Keddy 5-11-2 S McNeill
4 2 ALL DONE 15 S Mellor 4-10-6 N Mann
5 0 CEEJAYELL 21 N Chamberlain 4-10-6 Miss C Metcalfe (7)
6 ISLAWEN LADY J Bradley 4-10-6 B Fenton
7 LADY BOCO F Coton 4-10-6 C Rae (7)
8 5 SIDE BY SIDE 15 C Thornton 4-10-6 N Horrocks (7)
9 WHAT THE DEVIL J Smith 4-10-6 W Worthington

6-4 Country Orchid, 2-1 All Done, 9-2 Side By Side, 8-1 others.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER

2.10 Swift Riposte. 2.40 Movac. 3.10 Shanavogh. 3.45 Montrave. 4.20 Here Comes Herbie. 4.50 Double Agent. 5.20 Far Ahead.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £1,720: 2m) (8)

1 500P BLOOD BROTHER 16 J Barclay 5-11-7 D Parker
2 3540 LAUGHING FONTAINE 81 F Murphy 7-11-7 M Foster
3 0 RASIN STANDARDS 70 R Craggs 7-11-7 G Cahill
4 0 ROMALDKIRK 8 V Thompson 5-11-7 Mr M Thompson
5 02-4 SWIFT RIPOSTE 16 P Monteith 6-11-7 R Supple
6 034- ANASTASIA WINDSOR 350 (V) D Moffatt 6-11-2 D J Moffatt
7 U JAMAICAN FLIGHT 7 Mrs S Lamyman 4-10-11 E Callaghan (3)
8 0 PEARLS OF THOUGHT 16 A Whillans 4-10-6 S Taylor (5)

5-2 Jamaican Flight, 7-2 Swift Riposte, 9-2 Laughing Fontaine, 6-1 others.

2.40 FIONA P CRAIG NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,688: 3m) (11)

1 U0P4 MOVAC 25 (G) Miss L Russell 8-11-10 M Moloney
2 45-6 MASTER OF TROY 30 (F,G,S) C Parker 9-11-3 D Parker
3 F1F4 MISTER TRICK 16 (B,BF,G) L Lungo 7-11-2 R Supple
4 PS-0 MASTER FLASHMAN 19 Mrs M Reveley 8-10-11 G Cahill
5 -6F4 STRONGALONG 19 P Cheesbrough 7-10-6 A S Smith
6 -PUU MOST RICH 10 (V) B Ellison 9-10-5 T Reed
7 0F6P DISTILLERY HILL 8 V Thompson 9-10-5 Mr M Thompson
8 006P SELDOM BUT SEVERE 11 E Elliott 7-10-3 G F Ryan (5)
9 -4F4 TACTIX 10 Miss M Milligan 7-10-3 B Storey
10 P85P BRIGHT DESTINY 11 J Goldie 6-10-0 K Johnson
11 003F FINE TUNE 26 Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-0 M Foster

3-1 Mister Trick, 4-1 Tactix, 5-1 Master Of Troy, 6-1 Master Flashman, 8-1 others.

3.10 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,105: 2m 4f) (7)

1 2130 ANTARCTIC WIND 30 (F) M Hammond 7-11-10 E Callaghan (3)
2 1214 SHANAVOGH 29 (D,BF,G) G Moore 6-11-10 J Callaghan
3 006P BORIS BROOK 25 R Allan 6-11-0 S Melrose (7)
4 0-50 CAUGHT AT LAST 22 Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 G Cahill
5 -P44 CLAVERING 19 H Johnson 7-11-0 A S Smith
6 -P54 DRAKEWRATH 11 (G) R Barclay 7-11-0 D Parker
7 -400 THE SHARROW LEGEND 25 J Sisterson 5-11-0 S Taylor (5)

6-4 Shanavogh, 5-2 Antarctic Wind, 4-1 Clavering, 6-1 Caught At Last, 12-1 Drakewrath, [illegible]-1 The Sharrow Legend, 20-1 Boris Brook.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Hawaii Storm. 2.20 Roffey Spinney. 2.50 Roman Reel. 3.25 Rash Gift. 3.55 Robo Magic. 4.30 English Invader. 5.00 Le Sport.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 MERLIN SELLING HANDICAP (Div I: £1,784: 1m) (12 runners)

1 6480 MANABAR 11J (B,D,G) M Polglase 5-9-10 T G McLaughlin 8
2 0215 HAWAII STORM 7 (CD,G,S) D French Davis 9-9-9 Kasty Baker (7) 11
3 2-30 BLUSHING GRENADIER 32 (V,G,B) M Fetherston-Godley 5-9-3 D Holland 5
4 2646 SOLDIER COVE 9J (D,S) M Meade 7-9-0 D Sweeney (5) 2
5 000- CHILI HEIGHTS 37J (V,G,S) K Bishop 7-8-12 T Sprake 9
6 4-12 BOLD HABIT 18 (CD,F,G) J Pearce 12-8-11 G Bardwell 1
7 000- AJKUIT 71 J Sheehan 4-8-8 A Clark 10
8 -455 LACHESIS 8 D Nicholls 4-8-8 Iona Wands (7) 6
9 -441 JUSTINIANUS 2 (C,G,S) J Bridger 5-8-6 (5ex) A Daly (5) 7
10 6-00 SWEET AMORET 98 (G) P Howling 4-8-5 F Norton 4
11 0-06 SHAYNES DOMAIN 32 (B,G) R Flower 5-7-12 J Quinn 3
12 -005 BRIGHT PARAGON 21 (C,F,G,S) K Ivory 8-7-10 N Adams 12

11-4 Hawaii Storm, 4-1 Bold Habit, 7-1 Blushing Grenadier, Justinianus, 8-1 Soldier Cove, Manabar, 12-1 Lachesis, 14-1 others.

2.20 BUZZARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,323: 5f) (8)

1 3-53 NIGHTINGALE SONG 10 (G) M Meade 9-7 D Sweeney (5) 1
2 0-31 ROFFEY SPINNEY 11 (C,G) R Hannon 9-3 S Sanders 8
3 242 BLUES MAGIC 7 (V,BF) M Bell 9-2 G Faulkner (5) 2
4 2-32 CASTLE ASHBY JACK 11 (B) P Howling 8-13 F Norton 6
5 21-1 HEVER GOLF LOVER 42 (CD,G) T Naughton 8-13 D Holland 7
6 -374 SPARKLING EDGE 10 (CD,F,G) C Dwyer 8-11 D R McCabe 5
7 0-55 LUCY OF ARABIA 11 J Sheehan 8-10 S Drowne 3
8 4-44 WHIZZ KID 18 (D,F) J Bridger 7-12 R Mullen (5) 4

2-1 Roffey Spinney, 5-2 Hever Golf Lover, 5-1 Castle Ashby Jack, 7-1 others.

2.50 MERLIN SELLING HANDICAP (Div II: £1,784: 1m) (12)

1 230- ROMAN REEL 130 (C,D,F,G) G L Moore 6-9-11 S Whitworth 9
2 0610 LIVE PROJECT 8 (G,S) M Johnston 5-9-9 D Holland 1
3 6325 OUR SHADEE 14 (V,C,F,G) K Ivory 7-9-2 C Scally 12
4 2002 STATISTICIAN 7 (D,F) John Berry 5-8-13 J Quinn 11
5 -300 GOLD LANCE 14 (B) R O'Sullivan 4-8-10 D Harrison 6
6 00-0 AWAFEH 43 (V) S Mellor 4-8-8 N Adams 4
7 0-45 SPECTACLE JIM 18 (G) B Pearce 8-8-8 G Gallagher (7) 3
8 00-6 GREY LEGEND 44 (B) R Flower 4-8-8 M Wigham 2
9 6503 GADGE 18 (D,S) A Bailey 8-8-9 S Sanders 5
10 -000 SOUND THE TRUMPET 14 (G) R Spicer 5-8-3 J Bramhill (5) 10
11 500- WINGNUT 95 (B,G) R Ingram 4-7-12 R Mullen (5) 7
12 5300 MADONNA DA ROSSI 18 M Dods 4-7-12 Dale Gibson 8

11-4 Live Project, 5-1 Roman Reel, Statistician, 7-1 Our Shadee, 8-1 Gadge, 10-1 Gold Lance, 12-1 others.

3.25 BARN OWL MAIDEN STAKES (£3,339: 1m) (9)

1 000- BE SATISFIED 58 G L Moore 4-9-0 A Clark 6
2 -035 GENUINE JOHN 19 J Parkes 4-9-0 J Bramhill (5) 5
3 -036 HAUTE CUISINE 17 (B) R Williams 4-9-0 D Biggs 8
4 0-62 MISKY BAY 21 (B) D Cosgrove 4-9-0 M Rimmer 7
5 0- BESWEETOME 324 J Pearce 4-8-9 M Wigham 9
6 0- CAMPHAR 276 R Flower 4-8-9 S Drowne 2
7 360- LOVELY MORNING 145 D Murray Smith 4-8-9 G Carter 4
8 /30- RASH GIFT 122 Lord Huntingdon 4-8-9 D Harrison 3
9 06-6 SQUARE MILE MISS 37 P Howling 4-8-9 J Quinn 1

2-1 Rash Gift, 3-1 Misky Bay, 5-1 Genuine John, 7-1 Lovely Morning, 8-1 others.

3.55 SPARROWHAWK HANDICAP (£5,053: 6f) (9)

1 00-1 PRINCELY SOUND 11 (CD,G) M Bell 4-9-10 G Faulkner (5) 3
2 510- STAND TALL 170 (CD,G) Lady Herries 5-9-7 D McKeown 8
3 0-16 BLUE FLYER 14 (B,C,BF,F,G) R Ingram 4-8-6 S Whitworth 4
4 -612 ROBO MAGIC 11 (CD,F,G) L Montague Hall 5-9-6 D Holland 7
5 2434 SCISSOR RIDGE 11 (CD,F,G) J Bridger 5-9-0 R Mullen (5) 1
6 4313 APOLLO RED 11 (CD,F,G,S) G L Moore 8-8-8 Candy Morris 2
7 0152 SQUIRE CORRIE 9 (F,G) D Chapman 5-8-8 A Culhane 6
8 1500 KRYSTAL MAX 11 (CD,F,G) J Cullinan 4-8-6 J Quinn 9
9 1206 LORD SKY 2 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-8-6 S Sanders 5

7-4 Princely Sound, 5-1 Stand Tall, 6-1 Squire Corrie, Robo Magic, 8-1 others.

4.30 OSPREY HANDICAP (£2,843: 2m) (9)

1 -111 HATTAAFEH 9 (CD,G) Miss B Sanders 6-10-3 S Sanders 9
2 -301 PETOSKIN 10 (F,G,S) J Pearce 5-9-12 M Wigham 3
3 -213 WOTTASHAMBLES 11 (CD,BF,F,G) L M-Hall 6-9-10 D Holland 2
4 -362 GUEST ALLIANCE 11 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-9-5 Candy Morris 7
5 45-1 ILLUMINATE 16 (C,G) D O'Brien 4-9-3 G Bardwell 5
6 -413 ENGLISH INVADER 5 (C,G,S) C Dwyer 6-9-2 D R McCabe 4
7 2-04 STALLED 19 (CD,F,G,S) P Walwyn 7-8-9 W Ryan 1
8 -036 COLERIDGE 11 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Sheehan 9-8-9 A Clark 6
9 0-25 CHEZ CATALAN 21 (B,F,G) R Akehurst 6-7-10 J Quinn 8

3-1 Hattaafeh, 9-2 Illuminate, 5-1 Wottashambles, 11-2 Petoskin, 8-1 others.

5.00 HARRIER LIMITED STAKES (£2,451: 7f) (7)

1 0-55 DEEPLY VALE 14 (CD,F,G,S) P Butler 6-9-8 S Whitworth 3
2 3534 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 7 (CD,G) S Dow 4-9-8 A Daly (5) 1
3 -210 SHARP IMP 37 (B,C,D,BF,F,G) R Flower 7-9-8 M Wigham 6
4 6422 LE SPORT 8 (B,D,G) D Nicholls 4-9-5 Iona Wands (7) 5
5 2-10 STEP ON DEGAS 35 (CD,F,G) M F-Godley 4-9-5 D Griffiths (5) 2
6 20-1 SWEET WILHELMINA 11 (C,D,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-5 D Harrison 7
7 0-24 OUR KEVIN 26 (D,G) B Pearce 3-8-3 D R McCabe 4

2-1 Sweet Wilhelmina, 3-1 Le Sport, 4-1 Step On Degas, 5-1 Lancashire Legend, 8-1 Sharp Imp, 16-1 Deeply Vale, Our Kevin.

3.45 SCOTTISH LIFE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,200: 2m 4f) (5)

1 41F1 MONTRAVE 28 (CD,F,G) P Monteith 8-11-13 R Supple
2 2535 ALY DALEY 28 (C,D,F,G,S) H Johnson 9-11-5 A S Smith
3 2322 JUDICIAL FIELD 14 (B,F,G,S) N Tinkler 8-11-1 B Storey
4 1122 BUYERS DREAM 10 (V,D,F,G) B Ellison 7-10-11 T Reed
5 0443 RISKY DEE 10 (F,G) V Thompson 8-10-0 D Bentley

2-1 Montrave, 5-2 Judicial Field, 3-1 Buyers Dream, 4-1 Aly Daley, 10-1 Risky Dee.

4.20 SCOTMID HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,560: 2m 4f) (9)

1 -U64 ALL ON 14 (D,F,S) J Hetherton 6-12-0 E Callaghan (3)
2 -056 OLD HABITS 7 (CD,F) J Eyre 8-11-6 C Elliott (7)
3 0630 GLENUGIE 14 (F,S) G Moore 6-10-12 N Bentley
4 5251 CHEATER 25 (B,C,F) H Johnson 6-10-10 A S Smith
5 323/ STINGRAY CITY 856F (F,G) R McKellar 8-10-9 D Parker
6 F-P0 TOSHIBA TALK 7 B Ellison 5-10-8 T Reed
7 3031 HERE COMES HERBIE 14 (G) W Storey 5-10-5 R McGrath (5)
8 6-25 JABAROOT 139 (BF) R McKellar 6-10-0 G Cahill
9 -103 PEGGY GORDON 75 (D,F) Mrs D Thomson 6-10-0 C McCormack (7)

9-4 Here Comes Herbie, 3-1 Cheater, 9-2 All On, 6-1 Toshiba Talk, 8-1 others.

4.50 EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY TURF CLUB JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,560: 2m) (7)

1 61 DOUBLE AGENT 10 (CD,F) H Johnson 12-0 A S Smith
2 0F02 JOE SHAW 11 Mrs M Reveley 11-5 G Cahill
3 001 CRY BABY 14 (D,S) A Whillans 11-4 S Taylor (5)
4 305 ONYOUROWN 80 H Johnson 11-2 G F Ryan (5)
5 3600 DOUBLE DASH 11 (V,F) D Moffatt 11-0 D J Moffatt
6 060 PERPETUAL LIGHT 12F J Quinn 10-10 E Callaghan (3)
7 F000 BRIDLINGTON BAY 22 B Ellison 10-0 C McCormack (7)

7-4 Double Agent, 5-2 Joe Shaw, 4-1 Cry Baby, 6-1 Onyourown, 8-1 others.

5.20 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £1,720: 2m) (8)

1 R COEUR FRANCAIS 33 N Waggott 5-11-7 S Haworth (7)
2 00 COTTSTOWN BOY 25 Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-7 M Foster
3 4 FAR AHEAD 7 J Eyre 5-11-7 B Storey
4 06 HELPERBY 9 H Johnson 5-11-7 A S Smith
5 6 NORDISK LEGEND 14 Mrs D Thomson 5-11-7 T Reed
6 4000 RUBISLAW 16 (V) Mrs K Lamb 5-11-7 Miss S Lamb (7)
7 00-4 TILAAL 25 M Hammond 5-11-7 D Bentley
8 5 KNOWN SECRET 14 P Monteith 4-10-11 M Moloney

4-5 Far Ahead, 3-1 Tilaal, 5-1 Helperby, 8-1 Nordisk Legend, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3.40 Port Valenska. Haydock: 3.20 Love The Blues. Lingfield: 2.20 Blues Magic. 3.25 Haute Cuisine, Misky Bay. Musselburgh: 2.40 Mister Trick, Most Rich.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * denotes all-ticket
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership
(1) Chelsea v Manchester United
(2) Coventry v Everton
(3) * Leicester v Derby
(4) Liverpool v Blackburn
(5) Middlesbrough v Newcastle
(6) Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa
(7) Southampton v Sheffield Wed
(8) Sunderland v Leeds
(9) West Ham v Tottenham P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	26	15	8	3	52	29	53
Liverpool	26	15	7	4	46	20	52
Arsenal	27	13	9	5	45	25	48
Newcastle	25	13	6	6	50	30	45
Aston Villa	26	12	6	8	34	26	42
Chelsea	24	11	8	5	39	33	41
Wimbledon	23	11	6	6	36	28	39
Sheffield Wed	25	8	12	5	28	29	36
Tottenham	25	9	5	11	27	33	32
Everton	25	8	7	10	34	38	31
Leeds	26	8	6	12	21	31	30
Derby	26	6	11	9	25	32	29
Sunderland	25	7	8	10	23	32	29
Blackburn	24	6	9	9	26	25	27
Leicester	24	7	6	11	25	35	27
Coventry	26	6	9	11	24	35	27
Nottm Forest	25	5	8	12	23	40	23
West Ham	25	5	7	13	20	33	22
Southampton	23	5	5	13	32	41	20
† Middlesbro	24	5	7	12	30	44	19

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

Nationwide League
First division
(10) Barnsley v Wolverhampton
(11) Charlton v Norwich
(12) Crystal Palace v Tranmere
(13) * Huddersfield v Bolton
(14) Ipswich v Oxford United
(15) Manchester City v Swindon
(16) Oldham v Bradford
(17) Reading v Southend
(18) Sheffield United v Grimsby
(19) Stoke v Queens Park Rangers
(20) West Bromwich v Portsmouth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	33	18	11	4	69	44	65
Barnsley	31	15	10	6	53	37	55
Wolves	32	16	7	9	44	31	55
Sheffield Utd	32	14	9	9	54	38	51
Crystal Palace	31	13	10	8	58	33	49
Norwich	32	14	7	11	46	48	49
Stoke	31	13	7	11	40	43	46
Ipswich	32	11	12	9	45	41	45
Portsmouth	32	13	6	13	38	37	45
Port Vale	33	10	14	9	40	38	44
Oxford Utd	32	12	7	13	45	41	43
QPR	32	11	10	11	44	45	43
Tranmere	31	12	7	12	43	42	43
Swindon	32	12	6	14	45	42	42
West Brom	33	9	14	10	54	58	41
Huddersfield	33	10	11	12	39	46	41
Charlton	31	11	6	14	35	43	39
Reading	31	9	10	12	40	48	37
Birmingham	29	9	10	10	32	33	37
Man City	30	10	5	15	36	43	35
Southend	32	7	11	14	30	56	32
Grimsby	31	7	10	14	40	55	31
Bradford	32	7	10	15	30	49	31
Oldham	30	6	10	14	31	41	28

Second division
(21) Blackpool v Stockport
(22) Brentford v Bournemouth
(23) Bristol City v Crewe
(24) Burnley v Bristol Rovers
(25) Bury v Notts County
(26) Chesterfield v Plymouth
(27) Gillingham v Peterborough
(28) Luton v Preston
(29) Rotherham v Wrexham
(30) Shrewsbury v Millwall
(31) Walsall v York
(32) Wycombe v Watford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	30	15	11	4	48	29	56
Luton	29	15	7	7	49	32	52
Crewe	30	16	2	12	42	33	50
Bristol City	31	13	9	9	49	34	48
Stockport	29	13	9	7	42	32	48
Bury	28	13	9	6	41	29	48
Millwall	31	13	8	10	40	40	47
Chesterfield	29	13	8	8	28	21	47
Burnley	32	13	7	12	45	38	46
Wrexham	28	11	12	5	36	31	45
Walsall	30	13	6	11	36	32	45
Watford	28	10	15	3	29	21	45
Bournemouth	34	11	9	14	31	38	42
Shrewsbury	32	10	9	13	42	51	39
Blackpool	30	9	12	9	38	32	39
Preston	32	11	6	15	32	38	39
Gillingham	31	10	8	13	35	41	38
Bristol Rovers	31	9	10	12	32	34	37
Plymouth	31	8	12	11	35	44	36
York	31	9	6	16	32	50	33
Peterborough	31	7	11	13	43	53	32
Wycombe	30	8	6	16	29	43	30
Notts County	31	5	10	16	23	40	25
Rotherham	31	4	10	17	25	48	22

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Sittingbourne; Burton Albion v Newport AFC; Dorchester v Chelmsford. Gravesend and Northfleet v Gloucester; Gresley v Cheltenham, Hastings v Cambridge City; King's Lynn v Merthyr; Nuneaton v Ashford, Sudbury Tn v Salisbury; Worcester City v Crawley. Midland division: Bedworth v Stourbridge, Bilston v Solihull Boro; Grantham v VS Rugby; Moor Green v Ilkeston, RC Warwick v Paget R; Redditch v Rothwell; Shepshed D v Hinckley Town, Stafford v Raunds T; Sutton Coldfield Town v Evesham, Tamworth v Corby. Southern division: Cinderford v Fareham, Cirencester Town v Havant; Clevedon v St Leonards; Erith and Belvedere v Yate, Fisher London v Dartford; Fleet T v Waterlooville, Forest Green v Buckingham Town; Margate v Bashley, Newport (IoW) v Tonbridge Angels; Weston-super-Mare v Witney; Weymouth v Trowbridge.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Sixth round: N Ferriby v Bedlington, Northwood v Banstead Ath; Whitby v Mossley.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey v Welwyn Garden; Bedford v Potters Bar; Biggleswade v Brache Sparta; Hoddesdon v Milton Keynes; Toddington v Harpenden.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v Home Farm (7.30).

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Llansantffraid (2.0); Briton Ferry v Cwmbran, Carmarthen Town v Barry; Connah's Quay v Flint Town, Conwy v Caernarfon (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Caersws; Holywell v Cemaes Bay; Rhyl v Bangor City; Welshpool v Newtown

Third division
(—) * Barnet v Fulham
(—) Brighton v Swansea
(—) Cardiff v Hartlepool
(—) Chester v Mansfield
(33) Exeter v Darlington
(34) Lincoln v Hereford
(35) Northampton v Doncaster
(36) Scarborough v Rochdale
(37) Scunthorpe v Colchester
(38) Torquay v Hull
(39) Wigan v Leyton Orient

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	33	19	6	8	56	32	63
* Carlisle	31	18	8	5	46	28	62
Wigan	31	18	6	7	55	36	60
Swansea	34	16	6	12	44	37	54
* Camb Utd	32	16	6	10	43	40	54
Colchester	33	12	16	5	48	34	52
Chester	32	13	10	9	38	31	49
Scarborough	33	12	12	9	46	41	48
Northampton	32	13	8	11	51	35	47
Cardiff	32	14	5	13	40	40	47
Mansfield	33	11	13	9	37	33	46
Lincoln	33	12	9	12	46	52	45
Hull	32	10	13	9	30	33	43
Torquay	32	12	6	14	33	36	42
Leyton Orient	34	10	11	13	31	33	41
Scunthorpe	31	11	5	15	43	49	38
Rochdale	32	8	14	10	36	33	38
Hartlepool	33	10	7	16	37	49	37
Barnet	31	8	13	10	30	31	37
Hereford	34	9	8	17	38	48	35
Darlington	32	9	7	16	45	58	34
Exeter	33	8	8	17	29	46	32
Doncaster	32	8	6	18	34	55	30
† Brighton	33	7	7	19	36	53	26

† Brighton deducted two points
* not including last night's match

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Altrincham v Telford
(—) Bath v Macclesfield
(—) Bromsgrove v Woking
(—) Gateshead v Rushden & Diamonds
(—) Halifax v Farnborough
(—) Hayes v Slough
(—) Hednesford v Morecambe
(—) Kettering v Kidderminster
(—) Northwich v Welling
(—) Southport v Dover
(—) Stalybridge v Stevenage

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(40) Dunfermline v Aberdeen
(41) Hearts v Raith
(42) Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd
(43) Motherwell v Celtic

First division
(44) Airdrie v East Fife
(45) Clydebank v Stirling
(46) Dundee v Greenock Morton
(47) Falkirk v Partick
(48) St Mirren v St Johnstone

Second division
(49) Berwick v Stenhousemuir
(—) Brechin v Ayr
(—) Hamilton v Clyde
(—) Queen of South v Dumbarton
(—) Stranraer v Livingston

Third division
(—) Alloa v Arbroath
(—) Cowdenbeath v Montrose
(—) Inverness CT v Forfar
(—) Ross County v Queen's Park

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Barrow; Bamber Bridge v Winsford, Boston v Hyde, Chorley v Frickley: Colwyn Bay v Buxton; Emley v Accrington Stanley; Guiseley v Gainsborough; Lancaster v Knowsley; Leek v Blyth Spartans, Marine v Bishop Auckland; Runcorn v Spennymoor First division: Bradford Pk Ave v Congleton; Droylsden v Lincoln United; Flixton v Netherfield; Gretna v Atherton LR, Harrogate Town v Great Harwood; Leigh v Worksop; Matlock Town v Ashton United; Stocksbridge PS v Radcliffe, Warrington v Eastwood Town; Whitley Bay v Curzon Ashton, Workington v Farsley Celtic

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Backwell, Bristol Manor Farm v Brislington, Calne v Tiverton, Chard v Bridgwater; Elmore v Chippenham; Mangotsfield v Barnstaple, Odd Down v Bridport, Paulton R v Torrington.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Godalming and Guildford; Chipstead v Walton Casuals, Cobham v Viking Sports, Cove v Feltham, Farnham v Corinthian-Casuals, Hartley Wintney v Sandhurst, Merstham v Cranleigh, Raynes Park Vale v Netherne, Reading Town v Bedfont; Westfield v Ash.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Yeading; Boreham Wood v Aylesbury; Carshalton v Grays; Dagenham and Redbridge v Bromley; Enfield v Purfleet; Hendon v Dulwich; Heybridge v Sutton United; Hitchin v Kingstonian; Oxford City v Chertsey; Staines v Harrow, Yeovil v St Albans. First division: Abingdon Town v Hampton, Basingstoke v Berkhamsted; Canvey Island v Tooting and Mitcham; Chesham v Billericay; Croydon v Worthing, Leyton Pennant v Bognor Regis; Marlow v Maidenhead United; Molesey v Aldershot Town, Uxbridge v Whyteleafe. Walton and Hersham v Barton Rovers; Wokingham v Thame. Second division: Bracknell v Horsham; Collier Row and Romford v Dorking, Hungerford v Cheshunt, Leighton Town v Tilbury. Ware v Edgware, Wembley v Bedford T, Windsor and Eton v Barking; Witham v Egham; Wivenhoe v Chalfont St Peter. Third division: Aveley v Lewes, Camberley v Kingsbury; East Thurrock v Wingate and Finchley; Harlow v Epsom and Ewell, Hertford v Southall, Tring v Braintree

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Highworth; Didcot v Bicester, Endsleigh v Swindon Supermarine; North Leigh v Fairford. Shortwood v Brackley; Wantage v Carterton.

BASS IRISH CUP: Sixth round: Crumlin U v Loughgall (at Loughgall, 2.15); Crusaders v Portadown. Dundela v Coagh (2.15) Glenavon v Glentoran. Limavady v Bangor (at Bangor); Omagh v Chimney Corner; Portstewart v Coleraine (at Coleraine). RUC v Cliftonville (at Windsor Park).

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Southend Manor. Concord Rangers v Eton Manor; Brentwood v Sawbridgeworth, East Ham v Saffron Walden, Great Wakering v Ford United, Ilford v Burnham Ramblers, Stansted v Hullbridge Sports

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Hanwell, Brimsdown v Islington St Marys, Brook House v Croydon, Hillingdon Boro v Harefield, Ruislip Manor v Woodford, St Margaretsbury v Haringey.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gorleston v Sudbury Res, Great Yarmouth v Wisbech. Halstead v Bury Town, Harwich and Parkeston v Fakenham, March v Diss; Newmarket v Stowmarket, Warboys v Hadleigh U, Walton v Sudbury, Woodbridge Town v Lowestoft, Wroxham v Clacton.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures v Bemerton Heath, Bournemouth v Lymington, Brockenhurst v Andover; Cowes Sports v Eastleigh Downton v Thatcham Town; East Cowes v Gosport, Portsmouth v Totton, Whitchurch v BAT; Wimborne Town v Christchurch.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham v Wick; Horsham YMCA v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Mile Oak v Langney Sports, Oakwood v Southwick, Pagham v Eastbourne Town Ringmer v Whitehawk, Saltdean v Selsey, Shoreham v Arundel, Three Bridges v Portfield

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Whitstable Town; Cray v Crockenhill, Deal v Slade Green; Folkestone Invicta v Corinthian. Greenwich v Faversham; Herne Bay v Ramsgate, Sheppey v Furness, Thamesmead v Lordswood; Tunbridge Wells v Chatham, Woolwich v Hythe

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v Spalding, Desborough v Kempston, Eynesbury v Long Buckby; Ford Sports v Stotfold, Holbeach v Bourne Mirrlees Blackstone v Wootton, Newport Pagnell v S and L Corby; Potton v Stamford.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Stratford T. Bloxwich Town v Shifnal T. Bridgnorth v Pelsall V. Halesowen H v Boldmere St M. Hinckley Athletic v Rocester, Oldbury U v Knypersley V. Rushall O v Sandwell; Stapenhill v Chasetown, Willenhall v Blakenhall

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Bilston Community College, Coleshill v David Lloyd, Kings Heath v Handrahan Timbers; Knowle v Meir KA; Richmond Swifts v Bolehall S, Shirley v West Midland Fire Service, Southam v Coventry Sphinx; Studley BKL v Massey Ferguson, Wellesbourne v Kenilworth, Worcestero v Highgate.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Walsall Wood, Darlaston v Wednesfield, Ettingshall H v Gornal Res. Lye Town v Wolverhampton United. Malvern T v Wolverhampton C, Stourport S v Westfields, Tividale v Stafford T, Cradley Town v Hill Top R.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Rossendale; Bootle v Holker Old Boys; Chadderton v Penrith, Clitheroe v Darwen; Kidsgrove v Prescot Cables; Newcastle Town v Blackpool Rovers, St Helens v Eastwood H, Salford v Burscough, Trafford v Maine Road

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning OB v Latymer OB, Clapham OX v Old Hamptonians, Old Meadonians v Old Tenisonians: Old Vaughanians v Glyn OB.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Maltby MW; Ashfield v Pontefract Cols Brigg Town v Armthorpe Welfare; Glasshoughton Welfare v Thackley; Hallam v Denaby; Hatfield Main v Ossett Albion; Liversedge v Sheffield; Pickering v Hucknall Town; Selby v Belper Town.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Dunston Federation, Crook v Murton; Easington v Seaham Red Star, Morpeth v Chester-le-Street, Shildon v Tow Law, South Shields v Consett. Whickham v Durham, West Auckland v Stockton.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0 unless stated). First division: Arsenal v Tottenham; Gillingham v Watford (10.45). Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd. Norwich v Chelsea; Portsmouth v Ipswich. West Ham v Fulham. Second division: Brentford v Crystal Palace; Bristol City v Brighton, Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth, Colchester Utd v Wycombe: Southampton v Wimbledon, Tottenham v Oxford Utd.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cholmeleians v Carthusians, Lancing v Foresters; Witeleians v Brentwoods.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v Old Parmiterians, Norsemen v Carshalton; Old Actonians v Civil Service, Polytechnic v Old Esthameians, South Bank v Crouch End Vampires.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Parkfield v Hale End A, St Mary's C v Albanian, Southgate County v Old Finchleians, Ulysses v Nottsborough, Wizan v Wandsworth B

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock v Barford Tigers (at Morne Ground, 1.0); East Grinstead v Guildford (at St Hill, 1.30). Havant v Canterbury (at Havant College, 2.30); Old Loughtonians v Teddington (at Chigwell, 1.30); Reading v Surbiton (at Sonning Lane, 2.0). Southgate v Hounslow (at Broomfield School, 2.30) First division: Bromley v Hull (at Priory Leisure Centre, 12.0). Brooklands v Bournville (at Georges Road, Sale, 2.0), City of Portsmouth v Bluharts (at Alexandra Park, Portsmouth, 1.30), Crostyn v Beeston (at Chigwell, 2.30), Doncaster v Indian Gymkhana (at Bennethorpe, 1.30); Edgbaston v Isca (at Birmingham University, 12.0). Firebrands v Lewes (at Longwood, Bristol, 12.30). Gloucester City v Oxford Hawks (at Plock Court, 1.30), Harleston Magpies v Oxford University (at Shotford Heath, 1.15), Stourport v St Albans (at Kidderminster School, 2.0). Warrington v Sheffield (at Penketh County HS, 1.0).

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Wokingham, Beckenham v Old Kingstonians, Bournemouth v Old Whitgiftians. Fareham v Maidenhead; Hampstead/Westminster v Anchorians, Ramgarhia v Chichester, Richmond v Gore Court, Tunbridge Wells v Woking; Wimbledon v High Wycombe. Winchester v Spencer. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover v Oxted; Basingstoke v Old Cranleighans, Blandford v Petersfield; Epsom v Camberley; London University v Barnes; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Cheam, Oxshott v Dulwich, Purley v Portsmouth, Southampton v Goan. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Bognor; Eastbourne v Tulse Hill, Horsham v Blackheath; Marden Russets v Ashford; Middleton v Herne Bay; Mid Sussex v Worthing; Old Bordenians v Bexley Invicta. Old Holcombeians v Brighton, Old Williamsonians v Bexleyheath; Sevenoaks v Lloyds Bank. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Farnham Common v Newbury; Hayes v Eastcote, Lions v Headington, Marlow v Gerrards Cross, Mill Hill v City of Oxford, Milton Keynes v Bracknell; OMT v Staines. PHC Chiswick v Amersham; Richings Park v Sunbury; West Hampstead v Harrow.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v Harborne, Coventry and North Warwickshire v Hampton-in-Arden: Khalsa v Blossomfield, Loughborough Students v Olton and West Warwickshire; North Notts v Nottingham.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Norton, Formby v Sheffield Bankers, Harrogate v Timperley; Neston v Southport; Springfields v Chester; Swalwell v Ramgarhia.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford v Peterborough Town: Cambridge City v Ipswich; Cambridge University v Redbridge and Ilford, Dereham v Colchester; Sudbury v Chelmsford. Premier division B: Clacton v Bury St Edmunds, Huntingdon v Luton Town, Norwich City v Bedford Town; Romford v Ipswich and East Suffolk; Westcliff v Old Southendian

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton v Leicester (12.30). Doncaster v Sutton Canada Life (11.30); Ipswich v Hightown (12.0) First division: Bracknell v Bluharts (2.0); Canterbury v Chelmsford (12.0). Olton v Bradford (2.0); Wimbledon v Bedens (12.0) Second division: Ealing v Exmouth (1.15): Loughborough Students v Woking (2.30), Old Loughtonians v West Witney (12.0). St Albans v Sherwood (12.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Pilkington Cup
Quarter-finals
Newcastle v Leicester (3.0)
Northampton v Sale (2.15)
Wakefield v Gloucester

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Bristol v Bath (3.0)
Orrell v London Irish (3.0)

Second division
Bedford v Blackheath (3.0)
Moseley v Waterloo (3.0)
Rotherham v Richmond (2.15)

Third division
Clifton v Otley (3.0)
Fylde v Liverpool St Helens
Leeds v Harrogate (3.0)
London Welsh v Exeter
Lydney v Wharfedale (3.0)
Morley v Reading (3.0)
Redruth v Rosslyn Park
Walsall v Havant

FOURTH DIVISION NORTH: Aspatria v Hereford: Manchester v Lichfield. Nuneaton v Sandal; Sheffield v Winnington Park, Stoke-on-Trent v Preston Grasshoppers, Stourbridge v Kendal. Worcester v Birmingham/Solihull.

FOURTH DIVISION SOUTH: Askeans v Weston-super-Mare: Camberley v Cheltenham, Charlton Park v Berry Hill. High Wycombe v Barking, Newbury v Metropolitan Police (3.0), Plymouth v Henley, Tabard v North Walsham (2.15)

NORTH: First division: Macclesfield v Wigton Widnes v Hull Ionians

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division Basingstoke v Wimbledon, Sudbury v Old Colfeians, Staines v Old Mid-Whitgiftians

MIDLANDS: First division: Leamington v Burton, Mansfield v Belgrave, Scunthorpe v Barkers Butts; Whitchurch v Stafford.

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST: First division: Maidenhead v Camborne, Stroud v St Ives.

CIS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final: Northumberland v Lancashire (at Tynedale)

RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Quarter-finals: Doncaster v Cambridge, Middlesbrough v Northern. Sudbury v Broadstreet. Thanet Wanderers v Colchester

RFU JUNIOR CUP: Quarter-finals: North. Crewe and Nantwich v Billingham (3.0) Huddersfield YMCA v Southport. South: Harpenden v Folkestone (2.0) Painswick v Hadleigh

Anglo-Welsh competition
Group B
Coventry v Abercynon (3.0)

Group C
Cardiff Institute v Nottingham

Group D
London Scottish v Ystradgynlais (3.0)

Swalec Cup
Seventh round
Abertillery v Llanelli
Cardiff v Dinas Powys
Carmarthen Quins v Neath
Llandovery v South Wales Police
Newcastle Emlyn v Ebbw Vale
Pontypool v Whitland
Swansea v Pontypridd

Welsh League
First division
Caerphilly v Newport
Dunvant v Newbridge

Second division
Aberavon v Maesteg

THIRD DIVISION: Kenfig Hill v Rumney: Llanharan v Tenby United; Narberth v Builth Wells; Tondu v Merthyr; Tredegar v Mountain Ash

Tennents Premiership
First division
Currie v Stirling County (3.0)
Jed-Forest v Hawick (3.0)
Melrose v Watsonians (3.0)

Second division
Biggar v Edinburgh Academicals (3.0)
West of Scotland v Glasgow HK (3.0)

THIRD DIVISION: Kirkcaldy v Kilmarnock (3.0). Peebles v Musselburgh (3.0) Selkirk v Stewart's Melville FP (3.0)

FOURTH DIVISION: Corstorphine v Gordonians (3.0). Hillhead/Jordanhill v Haddington (3.0); Langholm v Glenrothes (3.0)

Insurance Corporation League
First division
Ballymena v St Mary's College
Blackrock College v Old Crescent
Garryowen v Cork Constitution
Old Belvedere v Instonians
Old Wesley v Shannon
Terenure College v Dungannon
Young Munster v Lansdowne

SECOND DIVISION: Clontarf v Skerries, DLSP v Derry, Dolphin v Highfield Greystones v UCC, Malone v Bective Rangers, Monkstown v NIFC: Wanderers v Sunday's Well.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fifth round
London v Bradford (3.05)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Leigh Miners v Egremont (2.30) First division: Millom v Moldgreen (2.30). Walney Central v Barrow Island (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Friends Provident grand slam tournament (at Mansfield).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Crystal Palace (7.30) Leicester v Chester (7.30), Manchester v Hemel and Watford (7.30); Worthing v Birmingham (8.0) National League: Men: First division: Cardiff v Coventry, Mid Sussex v Bury and Bolton, Nottingham v Stockton, Oxford v Plymouth, Solent v Westminster Women: First division: Harlesden v Barking and Dagenham, Ipswich v London, Northampton v Thames Valley, Nottingham v Rhondda, Sheffield v Birmingham, Spelthorne v Crystal Palace

BOWLS: Liberty Trophy: Semi-final: Kent v Cumbria (at Gedling, 1.0)

GOLF: The President's Putter (at Rye)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Basingstoke v Sheffield (6.30), Bracknell v Manchester (6.0), Cardiff v Newcastle (7.0). Nottingham v Ayr (7.0)

SNOOKER: International Open (in Aberdeen)

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meet (in Leeds)

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women. First division: Leeds v Loughborough (2.30), Britannia Music City v Reebok Liverpool City (4.0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership
Arsenal v Wimbledon (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division
Birmingham v Port Vale (2.10)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Rangers v Hibernian (3.0)

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Sixth round: Guisborough Town v Taunton (2.0).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v Dundalk (3.0); Cork v Sligo (2.0); St Patrick's Ath v Shamrock (2.30); UCD v Finn Harps (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster v Southampton (at Armthorpe Welfare Ground, 2.0); Ilkeston v Everton (at New Manor Ground, 2.0); Millwall v Arsenal (at Fisher FC, 2.0); Wembley v Croydon (at Vale Farm, Wembley, 2.0).

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup
Quarter-final
Harlequins v Saracens (3.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Wasps v West Hartlepool (at Sudbury, 2.30)

Second division
Coventry v Rugby (3.0)

TOUR MATCH: London Irish v Mendoza (Arg) (2.30).

Swalec Cup
Seventh round
Treorchy v Bridgend (2.15)

Anglo-Welsh competition
Group D
Bonymaen v Rotherham (2.30)

CLUB MATCH: Bristol University v Oxford University (2.45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fifth round
Carlisle v Featherstone (2.0)
Halifax v Keighley
Leeds v Dewsbury
Salford v Paris Saint-Germain
St Helens v Hull
Wakefield v Oldham (3.30)
Warrington v Sheffield

SILK CUT PLATE: Second round: Hunslet v Workington (3.30); Lancashire Lynx v Hull Kingston Rovers; Leigh v Whitehaven.

CLUB MATCH: York v Doncaster

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Fifth round: Beeston v Reading (at Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0), Cannock v Stourport (at Morris Ground, 2.30), Chelmsford v Canterbury (at Chelmer Park, 12.30); High Wycombe v Teddington (at Cressex, 1.30); Lewes v Guildford (at Southdown Club, 1.30): Old Loughtonians v Hounslow (at Chigwell, 1.30); St Albans v Hampstead and Westminster (at Clarence Park, 1.30), Surbiton v Southgate (at Sugden Road, 2.0).

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone two: Cornwall v Somerset (at Bodmin, 12.30): Gloucestershire v Dorset (at Dean Close School, 1.0); Hereford v Devon (Hereford LC, 2.0).

WOMEN'S WELSH LEAGUE: Colwyn Bay v Penarth; Newtown v Haverfordwest; Cardiff Institute v Cardiff Athletic

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: IAAF Ricoh indoor tour final (in Birmingham)

BADMINTON: Friends Provident grand slam tournament (at Mansfield)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Derby (6.0), Leopards v Manchester (7.0), London v Thames Valley (5.0); Sheffield v Newcastle (6.0) National League: Men: First division: Brixton v Ware, Liverpool v Guildford. Westminster v Bury and Bolton Second division: Aston v Sheffield; London v Bournemouth, Swindon v Slough. Women: First division: Birmingham v Northampton; Ipswich v Sheffield; Thames Valley v Crystal Palace Second division: Liverpool v Doncaster; Solent v Leicester.

GOLF: The President's Putter (at Rye)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr v Basingstoke (6.0); Newcastle v Bracknell (6.30), Manchester v Sheffield (6.0)

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meet (in Leeds)

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women: First division: Smoke Free Birmingham v Sheffield Wednesday (12.45); Ashcombe Guildford v Essex Estonians (2.30); Orpington v Manchester United Salford (2.30); London Malory v Reebok Liverpool City (1.30).

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR RACE MEETINGS

Haydock Park

Going: good to soft (good after 3.00)

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, The Proms (C Llewellyn, 7-2); 2, Silly Money (8-1); 3, Pher Echo (8-1). Jervaulx 15-8 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 6l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £11.50. CSF: £28.57. Tricast: £194.26.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, General Wolfe (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 2, McGregor The Third (4-1); 3, Destin D'Estruval (11-4 fav). 7 ran. Nk, 19l. T Forster. Tote: £4.00; £2.30, £1.30. DF: £5.40. CSF: £16.69.

3.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Allegation (Jamie Evans, 25-1); 2, Kaitak (14-1); 3, Kingdom Of Shades (7-4 fav). 9 ran. 10l, 2½l. M Pipe. Tote: £27.50; £4.40, £2.50, £1.30. DF: £108.30. Trio: £151.90. CSF: £302.06. Tricast: £858.79.

3.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Eudipe (R Dunwoody, 11-10 jt-fav); 2, Simply Dashing (11-10 jt-fav); 3, Gerethson (10-1). 5 ran. 2½l, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £1.30. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.41.

4.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Big Strand (Jamie Evans, 11-2); 2, Barton Ward (11-4 fav); 3, Selatan (10-1). 13 ran. 1¾l, 8l. M Pipe. Tote: £5.80; £2.40, £1.70, £3.90. DF: £5.40. Trio: £88.80. CSF: £19.82. Tricast: £140.85.

4.30 (3m ch) 1, Lord Relic (Mr R Ford, 9-4 fav); 2, Country Tarrogen (7-2); 3, Glen Oak (33-1). 11 ran. 6l, 13l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.60, £4.80. DF: £7.10. Trio: £37.10. CSF: £9.56.

5.00 (2m hdle) 1, Break The Rules (G Supple, 5-1); 2, Royal Scimitar (11-8 fav); 3, Mutanassib (6-1). 10 ran. 1½l, 2½l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.00; £1.10, £1.90, £3.10. DF: £4.30. Trio: £9.60. CSF: £12.23.

Jackpot: £53,466.00.
Placepot: £36.10. Quadpot: £6.00.

Kempton Park

Going: good

2.10 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Royaltino (A Kondrat, 5-2); 2, Award (6-4 fav); 3, Ready Money Creek (7-2). 12 ran. ¾l, 7l. F Doumen (Fr). Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £4.10. Trio: £3.50. CSF: £6.44.

2.40 (3m ch) 1, The Jogger (Mr J Tizzard, 9-2); 2, Mediane (150-1); 3, Poors Wood (11-1). Teaplanter 2-5 fav. 6 ran. 13l, 14l. C Tizzard. Tote: £3.40; £1.20, £10.40. DF: £89.60. CSF: £255.55.

3.10 (3m ch) 1, Berude Not To (J Osborne, 13-2); 2, Oban (6-1); 3, Aardwolf (9-2). Pleasure Shared 6-4 fav. 6 ran. 7l, ¾l. O Sherwood. Tote: £5.40; £2.80, £1.90. DF: £8.10. CSF: £36.15.

3.40 (2m hdle) 1, Wade Road (J Culloty, 15-8); 2, Kailash (11-10 fav); 3, Tree Creeper (12-1). 10 ran. 1l, 4l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £2.20. Trio: £4.40. CSF: £3.90.

4.10 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, General Pershing (A Maguire, 11-10); 2, Lackendara (8-11 fav) 2 ran. NR: Five To Seven. 4l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.70.

4.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Lessons Lass (J Osborne, 100-30); 2, High Grade (10-1); 3, Royal Piper (10-1). Nine O Three 5-2 fav. 9 ran. NR: Mim-Lou-And. 1¾l, 4l. Lady Herries. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £2.10, £1.60. DF: £23.00. Trio: £69.60. CSF: £33.80. Tricast: £279.83.

Placepot: £74.30. Quadpot: £17.60.

Southwell

Going: good

2.20 (2m ch) 1, Weehaby (G Tormey, 5-1); 2, Record Lover (16-1); 3, Gordon (20-1). Flaming Miracle, Snowy Petrels 7-2 jt-favs. 10 ran. 2½l, 3l. M Barraclough. Tote: £6.40; £1.20, £4.50, £2.70. DF: £88.30. Trio: £130.00 (part won. Pool of £40.29 carried forward to 4.40 Kempton today). CSF: £74.49. Tricast: £1,514.81.

2.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, As Du Trefle (A P McCoy, 1-2 fav); 2, Pearl's Choice (12-1); 3, Pearl Epee (16-1). 9 ran. 8l, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £1.40; £1.30, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £6.00. Trio: £16.00. CSF: £6.90.

3.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Father Sky (J A McCarthy, 100-30); 2, Young Miner (20-1); 3, Childhay Chocolate (6-1). Mugoni Beach 5-2 fav. 6 ran. 5l, 1¾l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.70; £2.30, £5.20. DF: £28.30. CSF: £40.21.

3.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Mr Strong Gale (R Johnson, 11-4 fav); 2, Linton Rocks (4-1); 3, Kadan (14-1). 11 ran. 1l, 1¾l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.00; £2.20, £2.90, £3.90. DF: £5.30. Trio: £16.30. CSF: £13.37. Tricast: £122.05.

4.20 (2m hdle) 1, Otto E Mezzo (V Smith, 9-1); 2, Pinkerton's Pal (13-8); 3, Carlisle Bandito's (6-5 fav). 8 ran. NR: Kanbu, Ring Of Vision. 2¼l, 13l. M Polglase. Tote: £10.50; £1.40, £1.10, £1.20. DF: £10.70. Trio: £4.30. CSF: £21.61.

4.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Total Joy (J Railton, 2-1 fav); 2, Beechfield Flyer (9-1); 3, Smolensk (9-4). 13 ran. NR: Liam's Loss. 7l, 15l. C Mann. Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £2.50, £1.30. DF: £16.20. Trio: £3.60. CSF: £19.91.

Placepot: £174.40. Quadpot: £4.90.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.55 (1m 100yd) 1, Jilly Beveled (D Denby, 10-1); 2, Nukud (6-1); 3, Ballet De Cour (33-1). Recessions Over 11-4 fav. 11 ran. ½l, 1¾l. Ronald Thompson. Tote: £9.60; £2.00, £1.70, £9.10. DF: £23.30. Trio: £118.10 (part won. Pool of £130.83 carried forward to 4.40 Kempton today). CSF: £65.51. Tricast: £1,228.32.

2.25 (1m 100yd) 1, Gold Lining (J Fowle, 3-1 jt-fav). 2, Flagstaff (6-1); 3, Ring The Chief (3-1 jt-fav). 11 ran. 1¾l, 5l. E Alston. Tote: £4.00; £1.90, £3.10, £1.70. DF: £12.00. Trio: £28.40. CSF: £19.31. Tricast: £55.65.

2.55 (1m 4f) 1, State Of Gold (M Tebbutt, 7-1); 2, As-Is (4-1), 3, Skelton Sovereign (10-1). Head Gardener 8-11 fav. 10 ran. 2l, 1¼l. J Hetherton. Tote: £12.60; £3.10, £3.10, £2.30. DF: £15.60. Trio: £32.30. CSF: £34.48.

3.25 (1m 4f) 1, In The Money (D Griffiths, 6-1); 2, Ambidextrous (4-1); 3, Classic Account (25-1). Northern Motto 2-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Aztec Flyer. ¾l, 1½l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £8.10; £2.70, £1.80, £3.00. DF: £9.60. Trio: £69.30. CSF: £33.36. Tricast: £565.78.

3.55 (7f) 1, Mr Nevermind (S Whitworth, 11-2); 2, Leigh Crofter (10-1); 3, Dawalib (4-1 jt-fav). Elite Hope 4-1 jt-fav. 10 ran. Hd, hd. G L Moore. Tote: £8.70; £2.20, £3.50, £2.60. DF: £39.30. Trio: £32.20. CSF: £61.91. Tricast: £201.54.

4.25 (7f) 1, Diamond Eyre (R Lappin, 11-4); 2, Julia's Relative (5-1), 3, Fast Spin (6-4 fav). 9 ran. 2½l, 3½l. J Eyre. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £16.10. Trio: £45.90. CSF: £19.55.

4.55 (6f) 1, Needle Match (W Ryan, 25-1), 2, Sir Tasker (8-1); 3, Bold Frontier (7-4 fav). 13 ran. 1¾l, hd. J J O'Neill. Tote: £56.00; £18.10, £2.90, £1.80. DF: £57.90. Trio: £285.00 (part won. Pool of £321.15 carried forward to 4.40 Kempton today). CSF: £210.58. Tricast: £499.98.

Placepot: £215.50. Quadpot: £18.60.

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RUGBY UNION

Northern lights have perfect chance to shine

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE Pilkington Cup has this season mirrored the FA Cup in that so many fancied teams have already left the scene. There is no Bath, no Wasps, *no wealthy Richmond for the* quarter-finalists to worry about *this weekend*; rather, the real possibility of northern clubs occupying two, or even three, of the places in the semi-final draw on Monday.

That situation has not occurred for 20 years. In 1977 Waterloo and Gosforth reached the knockout competition's penultimate stage, Fylde failing to join them. A year earlier Gosforth, Sale and Wakefield made the last four and, coincidentally, *all* three are there again, even if tradi*tionalists scoff at the thought* that the Newcastle of today *bears much relationship* to the Gosforth of yesteryear.

Be that as it may, Newcastle have probably the best opportunity of carrying the northern banner a stage further, even though it is Leicester whom they must overcome. They are at home, they have 12 internationals from four countries available and they play a Leicester side weakened by the loss, through injury, of Eric Miller, Dean Richards and Stuart Potter. Against that, as *Dean Ryan*, *the Newcastle* captain, rightly observes, is *the pace and tempo at which* Leicester are accustomed to *playing the game in the first* division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

A fortnight ago Leicester carried the fight to Bath, the cup holders, to such good effect that they scored five tries at the Recreation Ground. Now they must accommodate Craig Joiner, more accustomed to the wing, at centre and Will Johnson at No 8, where he must match himself against the aggressive Ryan. The younger Johnson's control of the ball will be significant in *helping Austin Healey and* Joel Stransky to run the match *from half back*.

If the wind continues to shriek across Kingston Park, control will be at a premium and there are few wilier heads in the British game than Rob Andrew and Stransky, the opposing stand-off halves, but that is only one of a series of individual confrontations.

Sale, buoyed by their away league victory over Harlequins earlier this month, return to Northampton, where they lost 30-12 in the league in *October. Their nemesis that* day was Paul Grayson, who *kicked 20 points, and now* Grayson is rejoined by Matt Dawson after an absence of nearly 11 weeks, caused by medial ligament damage to the left knee.

Dawson, the England scrum half last season, has enjoyed a distinct upturn in his fortunes this week with his inclusion in the preliminary British Isles squad for the tour to South Africa this summer, though his match fitness will be tested to the full by Dewi Morris.

"I can't do anything about the past three months," Dawson, 24, said. "I know I've missed the five nations', but getting the news about the *Lions* was good for me. If I carry on playing well, I should be in with a shout.

"If my knee comes through *against Dewi, I'll be set up for* the rest of the season. It'll be *good to come back against* someone of that sort of quality; *you know where you stand*. It won't be an easy ride."

The return of Simon Mannix at stand-off will encourage Sale, whose only doubt is whether Dylan O'Grady will be fit to play on the open side. Andy Morris stands by to cover.

Phil Greening has recovered from a knee injury in time to play for Gloucester, whose status in the first division makes them favourites against Wakefield. Greening, the England replacement hooker, is the only change from the XV beaten by Bristol in the league on Tuesday, a result that should ensure maximum concentration against Wakefield, though Richard Hill, the director of rugby at Kingsholm, admits that the cup has taken second place to league survival.

There will be 17 international players padding through the mud of the Stoop Memori*al Ground tomorrow* when Harlequins play Saracens, ten *of whom will arrive with* Saracens. So often the boot *has been on the other foot, but*, in the past five weeks, Saracens have beaten Harlequins in the league and Wasps in the cup. Admittedly, both games were at Enfield, and winning away from home has not yet become a habit for Saracens, but they will welcome back Kyran Bracken at scrum half after a fortnight spent recovering from a deep haematoma.

If Pontypridd are to sustain their defence of the Swalec Cup, they must win the sev*enth-round tie at Swansea* today, where they have not won for 25 years. They *must* do so, however, without Dale McIntosh, the back-row forward capped by Wales in December, but now suffering from a rib injury. Neil Jenkins reverts to stand-off, his more accustomed position, for Pontypridd, to oppose Arwel Thomas, his national team colleague, whose form has forced Jenkins to play at full back for Wales.

Dawson: Lion-heartened

Wakefield keen to step forward

David Hands on the upwardly-mobile aspirations of one of Yorkshire's finest

YORKSHIRE is not short of *upwardly-mobile* rugby clubs. With the arrival of professionalism, the ambition burns among the likes of Leeds, Morley and Harrogate in the third division of the Courage Clubs Championship, and in the second division, where Rotherham and Wakefield sit cheek by jowl.

Rotherham have arrived only recently at this status; Wakefield, by contrast, seem to have been trying to escape it for years, yet seem doomed to failure once more this season with the moneyed clubs occupying both the promotion and the play-off spots.

There is, of course, still the cup. Wakefield stand on the threshold of repeating their feat of 1976, when they reached the semi-finals of the old John Player Cup. Today, they play Gloucester at College Grove in a Pilkington Cup *quarter-final and, were they to* win, it would be the most *timely of victories*.

Early next week, Wakefield plan to announce the first stage of a development essential if they are to fight their way into the English game's upper echelon. They have the opportunity to move to a new ground, away from the restricting, and shared, confines of College Grove with its 4,000 capacity, where they can grow and attract sponsorship.

That Wakefield have always been so competitive is *remarkable, given their small* catchment area of 65,000 and *the competition for players*. "There are many firms who would be prepared to invest in us if we were on our own," Robin Foster, their vice-chairman, said.

When the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) moratorium on professionalism ended last May, Wakefield handed out contracts to players. "We rushed into signing our squad because we were in danger of losing a number to our wealthier brethren," Foster said. Like many others, they believed that revenue would become available from television and sponsorship deals — but, with the long-running dispute between the RFU and English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, it did not.

Wakefield's bacon was saved by the private investment of five former players, and though they lost three promising forwards to Leeds, they were able to attract three quality players from Orrell. "We haven't worked our tails off for the last 20 years just to slide backwards," Foster said. "The desire to remain at the top is still there, to take one step further if we can, and it would be magic if, next week, we could publish our hopes for the future on the back of a win over Gloucester."

Wakefield's success this *season has come through* their back division, where the *loyalty of Dave Scully and* Mike Jackson at half back has served them well. Five of their players have appeared in the successful North under-21 team this season and one, Dean Hardcastle, was an England replacement in the under-21 international against Scotland last month.

"That's encouraging for us but we do need a bit of timber up front," Foster admitted. Yet *his club will relish yet another* high-profile cup game; thus *far they have beaten* Waterloo and Moseley, fellow second-*division clubs, so Gloucester* gives added focus.

"The cup means a great deal to us because of our previous exploits, we have always enjoyed it," Foster said. Two years ago they beat Gloucester 19-9; a year ago Bath, Sleightholme and all, were 45 seconds away from an ignominious defeat; there are no guarantees for visitors to Wakefield.

Cardiff keep champagne on ice

Andrew Longmore

finds ice hockey's champions short of a suitable stage

It says something for the confidence of Cardiff Devils and the savvy of their marketing staff that, within minutes of winning the inaugural ice hockey Superleague title, T-shirts celebrating the fact were on sale in the Wales national ice rink. For the Devils, a 6-4 victory over Manchester Storm, which brought them the championship with a game to spare, was a welcome return to winning ways. This was the club's fourth championship, but their first for two years. The wait was beginning to lay heavy on a club born only ten years ago but bred on success.

It was just a shame nobody brought the trophy along. For all the inevitable rendering of *We Are The Champions* and the wild scenes of celebration, the players had to make do with their standard issue bottles of *Bud* rather than supping champagne from a silver cup — an *apt* comment on the first year of the Superleague, which has seen plenty of fizz and a fair amount of froth. The presentation of the trophy will take place tonight before the Devils' final game, against Newcastle Cobras.

That the fall guys for the occasion should be Manchester Storm was appropriate — and not just because their coach, John Lawless, laid the foundations for the Devils' success in the early days. Lawless says ice hockey is "facility led". The Storm have the facility, in the 17,000-capacity Nynex Arena, but not the team. Cardiff have *the team, not the facility*.

As the players and the head coach, Paul Heavey, *moved* steadily into a lager-induced *haze during a long night of* celebration in Gretzky's Bar, *thoughts would already have* been turning to the future. The club's chief executive, David Temme, and Paul Guy, whose money has helped to bankroll this season's rising wage bill, were both away for the vital night. When they return, the development of a new arena will be top of their agenda.

The Wales national ice rink is cosy and, when the mood takes the locals, raucous. It is sold out most weeks, but a capacity of 2,635 will not put food on the table for long, if other clubs match Cardiff by buying in a higher class of import. Heavey, at 34, one of *the brightest young coaches* in sport, has done his home*work on players such as Ken* Hodge and Marty Yewchuk, *but money talks loudest* and it will only be a matter of time *before the greater clout of the* Steelers in Sheffield and the Storm prevails. A new 10,000-seat facility in Cardiff Bay is planned, but the vision is still somewhat hazy.

In the meantime, the Devils can savour their success and start preparations for the play-offs and, next season, another tilt in Europe. Last time, their run was halted abruptly by a team from Minsk in the semi-finals of the Europa Cup. This time, Heavey feels, his *team are wiser and more* battle-hardened.

"*Our long-term goal is to* win a European trophy and I *think we're capable of doing* that," he said. "This is a tough league. We used to have to raise our game to the highest level for *maybe eight to ten* games a season, now it's every week. We're looking at a standard comparable with the minor leagues in the US and players who don't make it in the National Hockey League are starting to look to Britain as an alternative."

The rougher, tougher type of player on their books has made Cardiff less than popular on occasions this season and has highlighted the inadequacies of *the disciplinary* code. Even Heavey, a defender of players in the *mould of* his fellow Scot, Alex Ferguson, *admits that the adminis*trative side of the Super*league has suffered from* "a lot of teething problems". Certainly, *raised standards* on the ice have not been *matched off it*.

The Devils are deserved champions, though, and you only had to watch Shannon Hope, Cardiff's veteran defenceman, racing children round the rink and signing autographs until his hand ached in the aftermath of victory to sense how desperately this sport wants to succeed.

SUPERLEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	OL	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	41	30	3	8	0	205	126	63
Sheffield	40	26	4	10	2	182	119	58
Nottingham	41	21	1	19	2	157	142	45
Ayr	40	19	6	15	0	156	152	44
Newcastle	40	16	2	22	5	150	161	39
Manchester	40	13	3	24	1	133	184	30
Bracknell	40	13	2	25	1	156	195	29
Basingstoke	40	12	3	25	3	148	188	28

OL column indicates games lost in overtime. Teams are awarded one point for each loss

HUW EVANS

Kip Noble leaps into Heavey's arms as Cardiff celebrate their championship

GOLF: ELEMENTS PLAY TRICKS ON COMPETITORS IN PRESIDENT'S PUTTER

Amateurs' best efforts blown awry

By John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent

FOR anyone in search of peace and tranquillity, the tee of the short 5th hole at Rye Golf Club was not the place to be on a doleful February day. Buffeted by 40mph winds, competitor after competitor in the President's Putter found the words that came to mind were not *those inscribed on the wooden* seat at the back of the tee — "*From the Rugby International*s Golfing Society 1961" — but rather a modification of that famous hymn, "For those in peril on the tee".

The sides of the 5th green fall away. It has a ridge in it so that the right side is lower than the left and is set at an angle from the tee. In a south wind, the best line is well left, towards Cherbourg. Those attempting to play this hole on such a day were reminded of Bernard Darwin's remark that "the most difficult shots in golf are the second shots to the short holes at Rye".

Though for many the green was unwelcoming and hostile, for Nick Burke it was the place of a minor triumph. His tee-shot finished to the left of the green, down a bank 15 feet below the putting surface. It could scarcely have been in a worse place. From such a position, even the most gifted professional would have been pressed to keep his ball on the putting surface.

Results from Rye 51

Burke chose to putt. He judged the steepness of the bank to perfection so that his ball just struggled to the top with its last turn and then was taken down on to the green by the contours of the surface. It rolled to within eight feet of the flag. Such skill was of no use in the end.

He was beaten 2 and 1 by Tim Hanson, who, in his morning match against Peter Cooper, had watched as Cooper's *ball* was blown several feet on the 5th green. "As he *took his putter back the ball* went with it," Hanson said. "I *couldn't believe my eyes*. I thought I was watching something out of David Copperfield."

After two victories, Ted Dexter's story of the 5th went like this. "I was on the high side of the green and my first putt started well left, turned and rolled down past the hole and on and on. I hit my second putt up the hill and it got to within six inches then began to trickle back and it ended at my feet again." Tony Murley, Dexter's opponent, took up the story: "I was about to bend down and concede Ted's second putt when it started to move again. It ended up further away in three than he had been in two. In the end, we halved the hole in five."

When professional golfers complain about bad weather *or poorly cut greens, it is days* such as yesterday and inci*dents such as these that come* to mind. The amateurs of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society help to keep it all in perspective.

☐ Peter Lonard shrugged off the distractions of his victory in the Australian Masters in Melbourne last weekend to lead with four others on seven under par after two rounds of the Canon Challenge in Sydney yesterday.

ATHLETICS

Rodal can judge form for run at Coe's time

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

AFTER staging a run of domestic meetings, in which British honour only has been at issue, the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham opens its doors to the world tomorrow. The venue is hosting the final event on the Ricoh Tour, which carries $210,000 (about £130,000) in prize-money.

The tour is the indoor equivalent of the "*golden four*" outdoor series — four of the *best meetings on the circuit* working together with an attractive prize structure. Yet, more than that of any single British athlete, it is the performance of Ian Stewart that matters most this weekend.

This is the first opportunity that the British Athletic Federation has had to lift off the mask of embarrassment that it wore last year, when its international meetings were not of the standard that the crowds in Great Britain have come to expect.

Stewart, as the head of the events department, needs a show of outstanding quality to help to convince the public that seats for the BAF's main promotions are *still* worth buying. The special effects display that the BAF is planning, through music and lighting, to jazz things up, *will not*, in itself, be enough.

Three Olympic champions dropping out in the past week *have left Stewart with only* one from an individual event. Gone are Charles Austin and Stefka Kostadinova, the high jump gold medal-winners from Atlanta, together with Deon Hemmings, the 400-metre hurdler. In, though, is Vebjorn Rodal, whose late inclusion had Stewart buoyant yesterday.

Rodal set an Olympic record of 1min 42.58sec for 800 metres when becoming Norway's first track and field champion for 40 years in Atlanta last year, prompting a revision of the presumption that Wilson Kipketer would be the one to break Sebastian Coe's long-standing world record. Either could take it this summer and, to emphasise the point, Rodal will seek to lower the indoor record, held by Paul Ereng, tomorrow.

Ereng's record may not be of such old cloth as Coe's, but neither is it from the nearly-new shop. Set in 1989, Ereng recorded 1min 44.84sec the year after winning the Olympic title in Seoul. Rodal has asked for a pacemaker to reach 600 metres in 77sec — 1min 43sec pace.

Pacemakers of quality are rare and, *as of yesterday* afternoon, Stewart has not *found one who is ideal*. He said yesterday: "We have got *people, but finding one who* can run that fast is not easy. I have got Peter Stubbs with me and he reckons he can do 78sec, but I am not so sure. Ideally, we need somebody who can run 77sec evenly."

Birmingham slipped from third to fifth in the International Amateur Athletic Federation indoor evaluations last year, but Stewart said of tomorrow: "It is going to be as good as anthing we have put on indoors. The depth is tremendous. We have got Ivan Pedroso and five other [long] jumpers over eight metres *this* season. We have got probably the best 60 metres on the circuit this year. Big names *could go out in the heats*."

That event includes Ato Boldon, the Olympic 100 and 200 metres bronze medal-winner, from Trinidad, Bruny Surin, from Canada, who will be seeking his third successive 60 metres world title in Paris next month, and Jon Drummond and Dennis Mitchell, two of the fastest Americans.

SNOOKER

Drago wins war of nerves

By Phil Yates

TONY DRAGO, a bundle of *often uncontrolled nervous en*ergy, made his debut in the *semi-finals* of a world ranking tournament a winning one by edging John Higgins, the title-holder, 6-5 in an enthralling contest *at the International* Open in Aberdeen yesterday.

Higgins, undefeated in five previous meetings with Drago *and in 17 matches during an* event that he was aiming to *win for a third successive year*, was confidently expected to *protect his record on both* counts, but did not play any*where near his best*.

Breaks of 57 and 106 gave *Drago, from Malta*, a 2-1 lead and he recovered from a 46-0 *deficit in the eighth frame* with a 67 clearance to brown to move 5-3 ahead. Holding a *64-6 advantage at an ad*vanced stage of the ninth frame, *Drago had one foot* and four toes in the final.

Drago *squandered an op*portunity to wrap up proceed*ings, however, and Higgins*, who rallied from 6-0 down to *pip him 9-8 in the last 16 of the* United Kingdom champion*ship three months ago*, refused to relinquish his grip on *the trophy*.

Higgins made a 71 clearance *to steal the frame on the black*, and won a fraught tenth by clipping *the pink* to a top pocket. At that point, given *Drago's propensity to crack in* such circumstances, Higgins was rightly considered an overwhelming favourite, and there was certainly no denying *Drago's growing nervousness*.

Unable to sit still in his *chair while Higgins was at the* table, he resembled an expec*tant father pacing the materni*ty ward. Yet Drago retained *his composure with a 59 break* in the deciding frame to secure *at least £32,000. "I knew I had* guts, but not that much," *Drago said. "I'm the happiest* man in the world."

The elimination of Higgins afforded Stephen Hendry, the *5-2 quarter-final conqueror of* Jimmy White on Thursday, *the chance to further tighten* his grip on top spot in the *provisional world rankings*.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt A McManus (Scot) 5-3; S Hendry (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 5-2. Semi-final: A Drago (Malta) bt Higgins 6-5.

HOCKEY

Barrett homes in on Teddington repeat

TWO seasons ago Andy *Billson saved Teddington* from defeat against High *Wycombe with a late equaliser* that took a Hockey Associ*ation Cup match to penalty* strokes (Sydney Friskin *writes*). *Teddington won the* shoot-out but now face *another contest with the same* club in the fifth round of the *cup tomorrow*.

However, John Barrett, the *Teddington assistant coach*, is certain that the pattern of the *previous engagement will not* be repeated on the second visit to *High Wycombe. On the* basis of Teddington's surge to *the top of the* National League, his confidence is justified.

Cannock have been cheered by the news that Bob Crutchley's fractured thumb *has healed but, although he* will be on the bench for the *home cup match against* Stourport, he will take the *field only to strike corners*.

Reading, the holders, and *four other clubs in the fifth* round, Guildford, Southgate, *Teddington and Hounslow*, have won the trophy, while *Old Loughtonians, runners*-up twice, entertain Hounslow.

*For the first time this sea*son, Southgate are free from *injury for the trip to Surbiton* and Beeston, unbeaten in 16 first division *matches, enter*tain Reading.

The pick of the *premier* division matches in the National League today is Southgate against Hounslow.

GOLF

Montgomerie tempted by US

By Mel Webb

NICK FALDO gave a broad *hint* yesterday that Colin Montgomerie was thinking *seriously* of following *his* example in playing an increasing amount in the United States.

Faldo decided to play full-time on the US PGA Tour two years ago and was rewarded with his third victory in the US *Masters — his sixth Major* title win — last April.

Montgomerie, yet to win a Major, has resisted the temp*tation to play more in the US*, insisting that European tour*nament golf is as competitive* as any. This year, however, he *has decided to prepare for* Augusta with seven weeks' *competition in the United* States, and will leave after defending his Dubai Desert Classic title next week.

"I'm sure that Monty is tinkering with coming over here," Faldo said. "He enjoys European life, but he also enjoys playing courses in good condition. If he is going to be here for seven weeks, he is going to get a really good picture of what life on the US Tour is like."

Faldo, who will be going for his fourth Masters title in nine years, said that there were no signs that Europe's domination of the event — eight wins in the last decade — was coming to an end and added that, despite an indifferent record at Augusta, Montgomerie was capable of making the breakthrough. "Monty might be the next man to keep the European cycle going," he said.

The burden of expectation on Montgomerie in Europe is mirrored by the pressure being imposed in the United States on Tiger Woods. "I don't think the attention that Tiger is getting will affect him too much," Faldo said.

☐ A course record 63 from David Frost led the way on a day of low-scoring in the second round of the Alfred Dunhill PGA at Houghton Golf Club near Johannesburg yesterday. Retief Goosen leads on 13-under 131. He has a one-shot lead over Frost, his fellow South African, and the first-round leader, Thomas Gögele, of Germany.

CRICKET: PLAYERS RESPONDING TO MODERN GAME AND METHODS OF PREPARATION

England dance to different tune

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN AUCKLAND

EVEN the most curmudgeonly of observers must concede that there is a strikingly noteworthy aspect of England's recent cricket. It is not just that they are winning games, it is that the players — including those of distinctly unathletic build and gait — look strong, fit and agile.

Already, one can sense a groan of scepticism from the armchairs of the traditionalists, where fitness regimes have never been well received. Cricketers, so they maintain, should get fit by playing cricket, just as they always used to do.

This edict, however, applied to another generation, virtually another game. The cricketers of today have so many more questions asked of mind and body than did their predecessors. Only they, three months into a tour covering two countries, know what it is to encounter a string of limited-overs games, with their excessive demands on physical well-being, at a time when mental energy and motivation are at a premium. They are doing so now, with a second game of five scheduled for tomorrow at Eden Park.

England have been shamefully slow to recognise the needs of the modern game. This is the first tour on which two experts have catered for the players' physical welfare, but the belated acknowledgement is having its reward — visibly, in the case of unrecognisable fielding and catching standards, and less tangibly in the improved levels of stamina to concentrate through a taxing day.

Wayne Morton, the England physiotherapist, has been waging war on reactionary philosophies since he came into cricket 13 years ago. "To acquire fitness requires toughness, preparation and attitude," he said, "and in cricket there is a constant battle against long tradition and resistance. But I struggle far less with the players of today and more with the people who used to play.

"When I started out in cricket, the attitudes to fitness were antiquated. We still lag behind other countries, and because I am fighting a corner it seems to me that changes are not happening fast enough. To a traditionalist, it is probably moving too fast."

It was the idea of Morton, a Yorkshireman, to spread the workload by recruiting a specialist trainer. "Fitness in cricket had always been the province of the physios, but I increasingly found myself dragged in two directions and that we also needed a different input. I knew there was a role for a fitness expert — I just had to persuade the [Test and County Cricket] Board."

Morton won his point and Dean Riddle, ironically a New Zealander, was recruited. Riddle had spent ten years training rugby league teams, the past seven in England, and has found little difficulty adapting his methods.

Surrey jazz up Sundays — 1

We spoke towards the end of the Christchurch Test. Riddle had just taken three of the unemployed players for a session of swimming and "water-based running". At close of play, others would be identified for shuttle runs on the outfield. Morton grinned mischievously: "Dean gets all the abuse from them now. I'm the good guy again.

"Cricketers are human and training often seems an unpleasant thing to do. We cannot expect to impose concepts and change things overnight but, in a few years' time, every new player will accept these routines as the norm."

Morton and Riddle have devised some training games that, to an outsider, seem irrelevant, even infantile. Yet the noisy, hyperactive routines, one of them a kind of basketball played with a tennis ball, all have their purpose. "It is for agility, for the reflexes, for hand-eye co-ordination and for player communication," Riddle said.

"Equally, we may give them a game that has no special relevance other than to warm them up in a way they find interesting. Variety is the key — we constantly change the formulas to keep them thinking and so they don't know how much they are doing. It would be hard, for instance, to get a player to do 20 40-metre sprints straight off, but play football for half an hour and he will probably do 60."

Both men speak of diet, of energy levels and of their aim to create a national fitness database so that cricketers can constantly be assessed. But they relate to the players' own vocabulary when Morton says: "There is an intensity and aggressiveness in Test cricket now and, when you come up against a very physical, powerful side like South Africa, it can be intimidating."

In this, he is getting through to the players and perhaps the mark of the fitness men's success on this tour has been the response of two unlikely candidates, Robert Croft and Philip Tufnell.

"Croft is a dumpy little Welshman," Morton said, "but he believes his fitness levels have made him stronger in his bowling, given him more presence at the crease. As for Tuffers, well, he'll never be Carl Lewis but he has reacted well." Tufnell, indeed, has been going regularly to the gym without persuasion. His fielding has benefitted enormously and the direct-hit run-out he effected in the Christchurch Test was a sweet moment for his trainers.

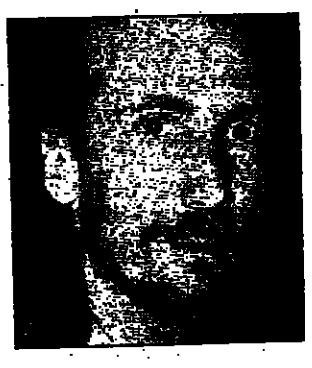
While Morton, an integral part of this team and its culture, sees out the tour, Riddle has returned home. Already, however, he has signed a contract for the tour to West Indies next winter, which can only be good news for England's cricket.

SIMON BARKER

Croft and Tufnell enjoy the success their improved levels of fitness has helped them to achieve

Jury still out after Kray funds appeal

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

ASHFIELD 95, a football club from Kirkby in Nottinghamshire, has appointed a new president — Reggie Kray. Now 63 and jailed for 30 years for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie and being accessory to the murder of George Cornell, Kray has contributed £1,000 to Ashfield 95.

He issued his first statement as president from Maidstone prison: "I am very pleased the team has honoured me in this way. I have always had a soft spot for Nottinghamshire since I spent a few years in Nottingham prison. The people are really friendly and Nottingham is my second favourite city after London."

For some reason, not everyone is ecstatic about this appointment. Mick Kilbee, assistant secretary to the Nottinghamshire FA, said: "We have written to the club asking them to explain the situation in writing. Meanwhile, we are reserving judgment until we hear from them."

Ashfield wrote to Kray after a number of others had turned down their request for money, which they want to help them find a better ground. The Prince's Trust rejected them: Kray did not.

Take five

The willow is covered in pussies and the song of the song thrush echoes through the land. Can the third sign of spring be far behind? No: this column's annual *Wisden* competition is with us once again. All you have to do is work out who the editor, Matthew Engel, has selected as the five *Wisden* cricketers of the year.

The *Wisden* award traditionally goes to the five players who have illuminated the English season of the previous summer: a player can only win it once. However, there is something rum going on this year. Engel dropped one of his subtle hints: "Remember that the selection of the cricketers, and even the criteria by which he selects them, are entirely a matter of the editor's judgment." Engel may have played a wild card this year.

A copy of *Wisden 1997* goes to the five entries closest to Engel's selection: I am the sole judge of proximity. Entries must reach me by March 10.

The biters bit

Bandits held up a car near Warsaw, in Poland, and were set to rob the occupants, Konstin Valgin and Gennady Remensky. But help was at hand. The two men are coaches to the biathlon teams of Russia and Belarus, and they were returning from the world championships in Slovakia.

Biathlon? Yes, the event that combines skiing and marksmanship — and the two teams were travelling behind. The four highwaymen found themselves surrounded by two dozen men armed with rifles. Wisely, they surrendered.

Pulling together

As everyone knows, the world indoor tug-of-war championship is taking place this week at the Torbay Leisure Centre. Tug-of-war is one of the most ancient of all sports; there is a wall engraving of competing tug-of-warriors in an Egyptian tomb, dated at 2500 BC.

England already has two gold medals at the championships and is fancied for two more today at the event, sponsored by Taylor Woodrow. The international federation is making a quixotic attempt at getting the sport back into the Olympics. It was last contested in 1920. Britain won gold, silver and bronze in the tug-of-war in the 1908 London Olympics; the gold medal-winning team from the Metropolitan Police went back to work for the afternoon.

☐ *Marcos Martin, playing football for Sevilla against Tenerife last Sunday, was injured and taken off the field on a golf buggy. Alas, the driver drove rather too close to the goal — and whacked Martin's head on a post as he whizzed past. He has since recovered from both injuries.*

Appealing Bell

Goalkeeper of the week is Joseph Antoine Bell of the Cameroon squads that contested the World Cup finals in 1990 and 1994. He has all but succeeded in getting paid for his participation in 1990.

Bell took the case to Fifa, who ordered the Cameroon FA to cough up the money he is owed. All the other members of the squad have long since given up the attempt at getting their money.

Bell did not actually play in 1990; he was dropped after a dispute with officials about when he was going to get paid. He played two games in 1994, but was dropped after his leading part in a threatened strike — about payment.

I wonder if he has been paid for the 1994 World Cup yet. Fifa said Cameroon would be suspended from international competition if they did not pay up. Vincent Onana, president of the Cameroon FA, said: "Cameroon cannot be suspended. Cameroon is credible, but to say that Bell will be paid as soon as possible is not comprehensive."

THE TIMES

10p

ON MONDAY,
A GUIDE
TO THE LATEST
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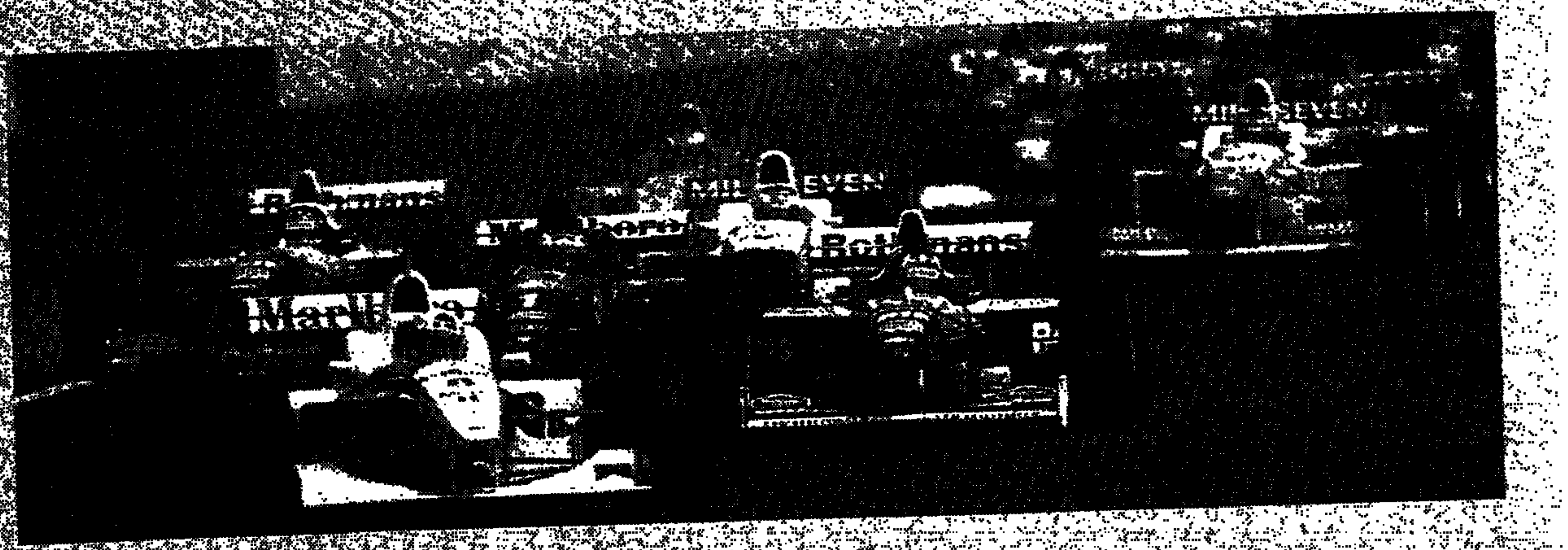

In Monday's 10p Times, see the free 20-page Grand Prix '97 guide. There's a preview of the new Formula 1 season, including a look at the teams, drivers and up and coming stars. There's also the chance to play Fantasy Formula 1 and win Michael Schumacher's pocket money - that's £25,000.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

How long can Arsène Wenger, the manager, continue in his strange state of denial? Obstinately *defending* his players' excesses on the field has its own nemesis. The fact is that Arsenal's *prospects* this season in league and cup have been severely damaged by the rash of *suspensions. Far* better educated and more sophisticated than the average manager, *it is surely in his* own and Arsenal's interest for Wenger to come down heavily on offenders, rather than try to excuse them. **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Thou shalt not make fun of the physiotherapist ... as Mark Draper, the Villa midfield player, has found to his cost. Draper thought that his past jesting with Jim Walker, the Villa Park spongeman, had been forgotten until he began his rehabilitation *from a hernia operation.* Running, running and then more running was prescribed *for the breathless,* Draper, prompting him to muse: "I used to wonder why *Jim never came in for a lot of banter.* Now I know." **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Robert Coar, the chairman, would surely prove useful to the Government in the disinformation department. His assurances that Svén Göran Eriksson really was still coming to the club were just the latest. Ray Harford began to get edgy when Coar said he wasn't leaving, and big money was punted on Alan Shearer joining Newcastle when Coar said that he was going nowhere. Coar even said that Eriksson *wasn't* a target, two days before he was named as the new manager. **DM**

CHELSEA

Manchester United are probably too proud to man-mark Gianfranco Zola, which could give Chelsea a chance, and Mark Hughes will be keen to score *against* his old club. Roy Keane, in the United midfield, will be hard to contain on present form, but so too will Roberto di Matteo, who insists that he wants to stay in London. Where United may have the edge is in goal, where Schmeichel — as at Highbury in midweek — dominates but Chelsea tend to falter. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Coventry versus Everton at Highfield Road *this* afternoon does not exactly whet the appetite. Only the *most* committed need attend a Premiership fixture of dubious potential. Still, the return of Dion *Dublin from* his seven-match suspension at least adds a smidgeon of intrigue. Will *Gordon* Strachan, the Coventry manager, use Dublin in central defence, his recent role, or as a *central* striker, his preferred role? Peter Ndlovu, his often absent teammate, may be back, *too.* **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Jim Smith has learnt a few tricks during his years in management, and one is to know when to put the frighteners on his players. Having gone without a league win since November, Smith took them to a *haunted house* in Stratford-upon-Avon. "There were trapdoors everywhere, and *some of the lads* slept with the lights on," Gary Rowett, the *central defender.* said. *The result?.* Four points from two games since, and much more spirit in the camp. **RH**

EVERTON

With Mark Schwarzer *turning* them down, and Neville Southall looking to go into management, Everton are suddenly in need of a goalkeeper. *And not* just a goalkeeper. "We've done the hard part in weeding out the *squad." Joe Royle, the* manager, said, "but we want to bring in *two, or maybe three, top-class players."* Today they await a fitness test on Duncan *Ferguson, who has a hamstring problem,* and Craig Short. Marc Hottiger is out, with *Michael Ball coming into the squad.* **PB**

LEEDS UNITED

After conceding seven goals in two games, it is back to the *drawing board for George* Graham, the manager, as *Leeds visit Sunderland,* a club with a defensive record to make Graham envious. *Graham is toying* with the idea of abandoning the wing-back formation, and reverting to the tried and tested. "Manchester United and Blackburn have won the championship playing 4-4-2," Graham said, "and United still are, so it looks as if all the *successful* teams play 4-4-2." **PB**

LEICESTER CITY

Back to square one. After restoring the balance of his side *by signing* Robert Ullathorne, a left-sided midfield player, on Monday, Martin O'Neill, the manager, could only reflect on the game's cruelties when Ullathorne broke an ankle 11 minutes into his debut against Wimbledon 24 hours later. He is out for the season, and with Whitlow still missing, there will be a distinctly right-footed look to the side against Derby County today. Heskey, Izzet, Lennon, and Elliott are all suspended. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

Stan Collymore has scored on his last five starts, *but no one at* Liverpool is apparently closer to understanding his complex character. Collymore did not train yesterday, complaining of feeling poorly, but at least he did turn up. While there are many unanswered questions about the *club's* most expensive signing, there is no doubt he has great talent. "He could become one of the best players in this country, possibly in Europe, if he gets his mind right," John Barnes said yesterday. **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

After the bitter encounter at *Highbury, United* were *still* counting their bruises yesterday. "There are a *few* bruises and strains which we have to check on," *Alex Ferguson, the manager, said,* "but Pally [Gary Pallister] is the only concern." If *he is ruled out, David May will step* back in. Nicky Butt is out for up to six weeks, and *Eric Cantona is still suspended,* leaving Cole and Solskjaer to continue the partnership that *was* so effective *against* Arsenal. **PB**

MIDDLESBROUGH

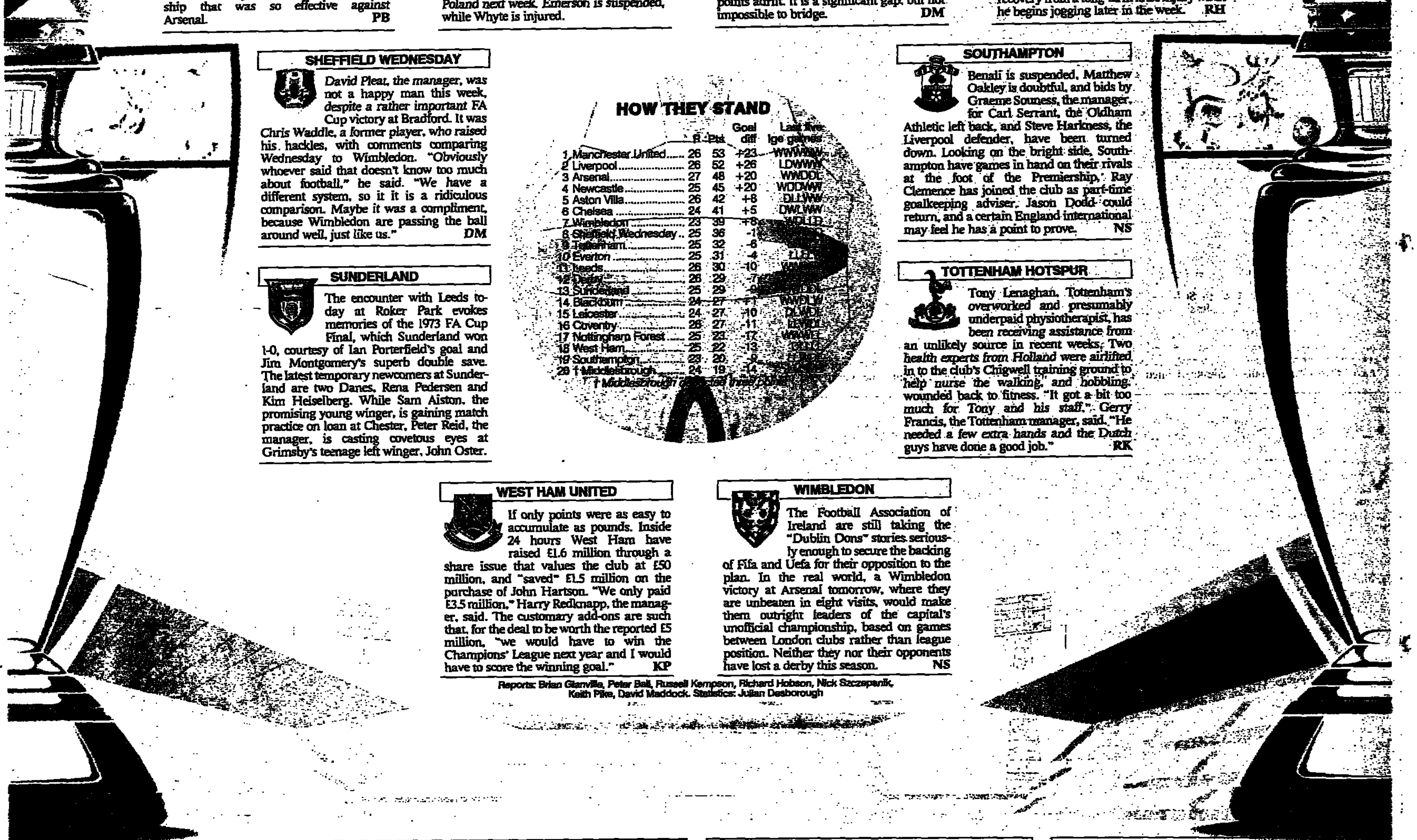
Bryan Robson, the manager, is close to completing the £1.25 million signing of Mark Schwarzer, Bradford City's 24-year-old Australia goalkeeper. Schwarzer has played just 16 games for Bradford since arriving from Kaiserslautern, of Germany, for £350,000 in November. Meanwhile Juninho faces Newcastle in the Tees-Tyne *derby at the* Riverside today before flying out to Brazil for an international against *Poland next week.* Emerson is *suspended,* while Whyte is injured.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

He is described as Mr Miserable, but Kenny Dalglish, the manager, can display a cutting humour. Asked yesterday if he thought the Premiership contest is now a two-horse race, his response was telling. "Who else is in it with us?" he smiled. He will soon have Newcastle winning consistently, and if they should record victory in the match they have in hand over the top two clubs, then they would be only five points adrift. It is a significant gap, but not impossible to bridge. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

With Stuart Pearce scowling menacingly around the City Ground corridors since the FA Cup ignominy at Chesterfield, there seems little chance of a repeat performance when Forest resume league duties against Aston Villa today. *Better* times appear to lie ahead for the manager. The takeover should be resolved — not before time — on Monday night, while Steve Stone takes the next step in his recovery from a long-term knee injury when he begins jogging later in the week. **RH**



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

David Pleat, the manager, was not a happy man this week, *despite a rather important* FA Cup victory at Bradford. It was *Chris Waddle, a former player, who raised* his hackles, with comments comparing Wednesday to Wimbledon. *"Obviously* whoever said that doesn't know too much about football," he said. "We *have* a different system, so it it is a ridiculous comparison. Maybe it was a compliment, because Wimbledon are passing the ball around well, just *like us."* ***DM***

SUNDERLAND

The encounter with Leeds today at Roker Park evokes memories of the 1973 FA Cup Final, which Sunderland won 1-0, courtesy of Ian Porterfield's goal and Jim Montgomery's superb double save. The latest temporary newcomers at Sunderland are two Danes, Rena Pedersen and Kim Heiselberg. While Sam Aiston, the promising young winger, is gaining match practice on loan at Chester, Peter Reid, the manager, is casting covetous eyes at Grimsby's teenage left winger, John Oster.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Manchester United	26	53	+23	WWWWW
2 Liverpool	26	52	+26	LDWWW
3 Arsenal	27	48	+20	WWDDL
4 Newcastle	25	45	+20	WDDWW
5 Aston Villa	26	42	+8	DLLWW
6 Chelsea	24	41	+5	DWLWW
7 Wimbledon	23	39	+8	WDLLD
8 Sheffield Wednesday	25	36	-1	[illegible]
9 Tottenham	25	32	-6	[illegible]
10 Everton	25	31	-4	[illegible]
11 Leeds	26	30	-10	[illegible]
12 Derby	26	29	-7	[illegible]
13 Sunderland	25	29	-9	[illegible]
14 Blackburn	24	27	+1	WWDLW
15 Leicester	24	27	-10	DLWDL
16 Coventry	26	27	-11	LLWDL
17 Nottingham Forest	25	23	-17	WWWLL
18 West Ham	25	22	-13	DLLLL
19 Southampton	23	20	-9	[illegible]
20 † Middlesbrough	24	19	-14	[illegible]

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

SOUTHAMPTON

Benali is suspended, Matthew Oakley is doubtful, and bids by Graeme Souness, the manager, for Carl Serrant, the Oldham Athletic left back, and Steve Harkness, the Liverpool defender, have been turned down. Looking on the bright side, Southampton have games in hand on their rivals at the foot of the Premiership. Ray Clemence has joined the club as part-time goalkeeping adviser. Jason Dodd could return, and a certain England international may feel he has a point to prove. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tony Lenaghan, Tottenham's *overworked* and presumably underpaid physiotherapist, has been *receiving* assistance from an unlikely source in recent weeks. Two *health experts from Holland* were airlifted in to the club's Chigwell training ground to *help* nurse the *walking,* and *hobbling,* wounded back to fitness. "It got a bit too much for *Tony* and *his staff,"* Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. "He needed a few *extra hands* and the *Dutch* guys have done a good job." **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

If only points were as easy to accumulate as pounds. Inside 24 hours West Ham have raised £1.6 million through a share issue that values the club at £50 million, and "saved" £1.5 million on the purchase of John Hartson. "We only paid £3.5 million," Harry Redknapp, the manager, said. The customary add-ons are such that, for the deal to be worth the reported £5 million, "we would have to win the Champions' League next year and I would have to score the winning goal." **KP**

WIMBLEDON

The Football Association of Ireland are still taking the "Dublin Dons" stories seriously enough to secure the backing of Fifa and Uefa for their opposition to the plan. In the real world, a Wimbledon victory at Arsenal tomorrow, where they are unbeaten in eight visits, would make them outright leaders of the capital's unofficial championship, based on games between London clubs rather than league position. Neither they nor their opponents have lost a derby this season. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

CHELSEA v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-2, —, 1-0, 3-2, 1-3, 1-1, 1-0, 2-3, 1-4.

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, F Grodas, D Petrescu, E Newton, F Leboeuf, E Johnsen, F Sinclair, S Clarke, A Myers, R di Matteo, S Minto, J Morris, R Gullit, D Wise, P Hughes, M Nicholls, G Zola, G Vialli, M Hughes.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, G Pallister, R Johnsen, D Irwin, K Poborsky, D Beckham, R Keane, R Giggs, A Cole, O G Solskjaer, P Neville, D May, B McClair, J Cruyff, R van der Gouw.

COVENTRY CITY v EVERTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-2, 0-1, 2-0, 3-1, 0-1, 0-1, 2-1, 0-0, 2-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, G Breen, P Williams, M Hall, P Telfer, K Richardson, E Jess, G McAllister, N Whelan, D Huckerby, D Dublin, P Ndlovu, B Borrows, A Evtushok, G Strachan, W Boland, J Filan.

EVERTON (from): P Gerrard, E Barrett, T Phelan, D Unsworth, D Watson, C Short, G Stuart, G Speed, N Barmby, G Allen, M Branch, D Ferguson, C Thomsen, N Southall, P Rideout, M Ball.

LEICESTER CITY v DERBY COUNTY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, 1-2, 3-2, 3-3, —, 0-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, J Lawrence, S Prior, S Grayson, F Rolling, J Watts, S Walsh, S Taylor, S Campbell, S Wilson, I Marshall, M Robins, S Claridge, K Poole.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, P McGrath, I Stimac, L Carsley, P Trollope, C Powell, C Dailly, A Asanovic, D Sturridge, A Ward, P Simpson, S Flynn, J Laursen, M Taylor, M Rahmberg.

LIVERPOOL v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 2-1, 0-1, 2-1, 3-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye, J McAteer, M Wright, N Ruddock, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, J Redknapp, S Collymore, R Fowler, J Carragher, M Kennedy, A Warner, P Berger, B Kvarme.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, C Hendry, G le Saux, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, W McKinlay, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Donis, S Given, P Warhurst, L Bohinen, N Gudmundsson, N Marker, G Croft, P Pedersen.

MIDDLESBROUGH v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 1-1, 4-1, 3-0, 3-0, —, —, —, 1-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): B Roberts, N Cox, S Vickers, G Festa, C Fleming, C Hignett, P Stamp, R Mustoe, A Moore, F Ravanelli, Juninho, M Beck.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Hislop, W Barton, J Beresford, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, R Elliott, D Ginola, K Gillespie, S Watson, L Clark, P Albert.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 6-0, —, 4-0, 1-1, 2-2, 2-0, 0-1, —, 1-2, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, A I Haaland, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, C Allen, I Woan, K Campbell, D Saunders, P McGregor, B Roy, V Warner, S Blatherwick.

ASTON VILLA: M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke, S Milosevic. *Substitutes: T Johnson, J Joachim, C Tiler, R Scimeca, M Oakes.*

SOUTHAMPTON v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-1, 1-2, 2-2, —, 0-1, 1-2, 1-1, 0-0, 0-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, N Maddison, K Monkou, R Dryden, E Berkovic, A Neilson, J Magilton, J Dodd, S Charlton, M le Tissier, E Ostenstad, S Basham, M Oakley, D Beasant, D Hughes, R Slater, U van Gobbel.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, S Nicol, I Nolan, D Walker, J Newsome, P Atherton, M Pembridge, W Collins, R Humphreys, B Carbone, A Booth, D Hirst, R Blinker, M Clarke, D Stefanovic, O Donaldson, L Briscoe.

SUNDERLAND v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, —, 2-1, 0-1, 0-1, —, —, —, —, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, D Kubicki, G Hall, M Scott, P Bracewell, K Ball, A Melville, G Ord, S Agnew, D Kelly, C Russell, M Gray, M Bridges, M Smith, A Rae, J Mullin, J Eriksson, D Williams, P Heckingbotham.

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, G Kelly, A Dorigo, C Palmer, L Radebe, G Halle, R Molenaar, L Bowyer, M Jackson, B Deane, R Wallace, A Yeboah, I Rush, I Harte, D Wetherall, M Beeney.

LEADING SCORERS

20: A Shearer (Newcastle), 17: I Wright (Arsenal), 14: D Yorke (Aston Villa), 13: R Fowler (Liverpool), 12: O G Solskjaer (Manchester Utd), L Ferdinand (Newcastle Utd), 10: C Sutton (Blackburn), S Collymore (Liverpool), F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), M Le Tissier (Southampton), 9: E Ekoku (Wimbledon), 8: G Vialli (Chelsea), D Dublin (Coventry), E Cantona (Manchester Utd), M Gayle (Wimbledon)

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING

8-11: Manchester United; 11-4: Liverpool; 6-1: Newcastle United; 10-1: Arsenal; 14-1: Chelsea; 40-1: Aston Villa; 50-1: Wimbledon
Odds supplied by Ladbrokes

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

TOMORROW

ARSENAL v WIMBLEDON

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 3-0, 2-2, 0-0, 2-2, 1-1, 0-1, 1-1, 0-0, 1-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): J Lukic, L Dixon, A Adams, P Vieira, M Keown, S Bould, N Winterburn, R Parlour, P Merson, D Bergkamp, I Wright, M Rose, R Garde, S Marshall, S Morrow, L Harper, P Shaw, S Hughes, A Clarke, G McGowan.

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, C Perry, V Jones, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, M Gayle, J Goodman, D Holdsworth, N Ardley, M Harford, D Jupp, B McAllister, B Murphy.

MONDAY

WEST HAM UNITED v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 0-1, 0-2, —, —, 2-1, —, 1-3, 1-2, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, S Potts, M Rieper, K Rowland, J Dicks, R Ferdinand, D Williamson, J Hartson, P Kitson, I Bishop, H Porfirio, I Dowie, F Lampard, L Sealey, M Bowen, S Lazaridis.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, D Anderton, R Fox, E Sheringham, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, J Edinburgh, E Baardsen, A Nielsen, D Hill, R Allen, J Scales, D Austin.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

BBC1 10.50pm Match of the Day

Tomorrow

11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

4pm Sky Sports Arsenal v Wimbledon (live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports West Ham United v Tottenham Hotspur (live)

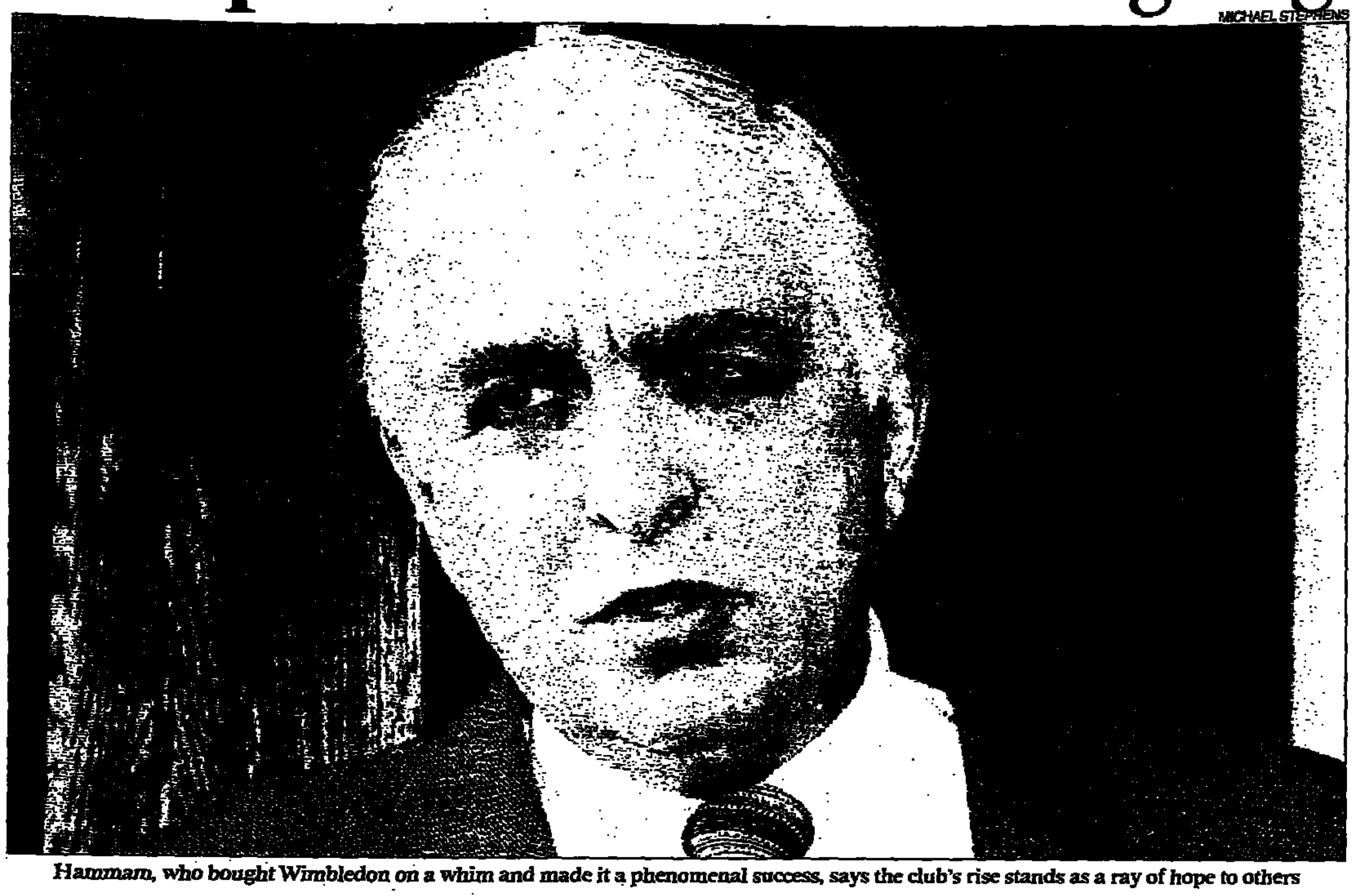
Winning means survival for the little big club that dare not lose

Hammam passionate about his gang

SAM HAMMAM

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Rob Hughes



MICHAEL STEPHENS

Hammam, who bought Wimbledon on a whim and made it a phenomenal success, says the club's rise stands as a ray of hope to others

It is not lost on Sam Hammam that the little club *that* he owns and runs tackles Arsenal, the north London giant, tomorrow. Which is the superior force in the capital?

They come from opposite ends of the FA Carling Premiership's fair play league, with Wimbledon in unaccustomed position near the top, *and Arsenal* bottom. Wimbledon, with a third of Arsenal's support at very best, have three times the opportunities to reach European *competition* at the end of this season ... and Hammam, a Lebanese, a Christian and a refugee from civil war, is elated at the status of his club. He will tell you a dozen times in half an *hour that nobody — nobody —* has better cover in their squad than Wimbledon FC. "We could put one of two teams out at Highbury tomorrow," he enthuses, "and both of them would give Arsenal a game."

Hammam's enthusiasm, his torrent of words, his almost evangelical crusade for Wimbledon is like Vesuvius; there *is energy and combustion to* spare.

And yet, when he pauses at his Regents Park home for reflection, Hammam, *the* businessman who has sold construction ideas throughout the Middle East, admits that he has fear, almost loathing, for the new money that is turning football into an *unrecognisable business* scrummage. "Once we are directors answering to shareholders and to the City, then *we have transformed* ourselves from a football club to a commodity," he reasoned.

He bought into this club, soon bought a majority, on an impulse; when his wife came *to England to give birth to* their daughter at St Theresa's Hospital, in Wimbledon. It was not, he insists, an investment; he knew next to nothing about the club, about football or the business that it might become. "*It is* one of those things that you do when you travel," he recalls. "You buy a vase, you fall in love with a *girl, you buy her things you* should not."

What has become of that young man's fancy, and the 19-*year journey* of Wimbledon from Southern League semi-professionalism? "We are in *the top five in England for* consistency over the last ten years," he booms. "There is Liverpool, Arsenal, Man*chester United and Everton* ... and they are only ahead of us by a nose.

"*So what are we to* football? The other clubs, from the biggest to the smallest, look at *what we have achieved and* what we maintain, and we represent hope — capital letters H O P E."

In the rare instances when he pauses, one's eye strays to the antique books, the exquisite furnishings, the swords and daggers in the living room. "My background is from an academic family," he *observes.* "*I come from* Dhourshweir, 3,000 feet high in the mountains. We could look towards Syria or to the sea."

Now, with his three children resident in the United States, *he is Sam the Wimbledon* Man. He will tell you he knows little more today than when he started about the *offside law, about football* tactics. That is for his remarkable coach, his creator of silk *purses out of sows ears,* Joe Kinnear. Hammam will talk of the *family*, with himself as "*both mother and father*". He wants you to feel in your heart and your stomach what Wimbledon is about, because *Hammam acknowledges that* it cannot be rationalised in logical terms.

If pressed, he will admit to the coarse, abrasive, even ugly aspects of which he and the team dubbed the Crazy Gang *have been accused. He will not* apologise, not for Vinnie Jones, not for the scrawling on the walls of the West Ham United dressing-room. Wimbledon, he repeats, is family, and nobody touches his family.

Thus, if Jones has stepped out of order, Hammam will sort him out, though in public *he will defend the player.* He defends, too, any probing questions about who sub*sidises the almost £2 million* per annum losses of the club, with the answer: "It's family." *In other words, it is in-house* business.

But, provoked, he will say: "I do not accept from anyone *how to set the standards of* behaviour. If the FA charge Joe Kinnear, do you think Joe *Kinnear pays his fine? I pay* his fine, it is made up in the salary, tax included."

He talks of each of the *managers who have passed* through his Wimbledon odyssey, specifying what they gave to the club, what loyalty he still *reciprocates to them*. Noting that Bobby Gould has been under recent criticism as manager of Wales, the combative Hammam says: "We have debts at Wimbledon because Bobby succeeded in buying a *good number of players, some* of whom we eventually sold to rebuild our team. With the *money for Keith Curle*, we bought six players — Robbie Earle, Dean Holdsworth, the *miraculous* Marcus Gayle, Warren Barton, Alan Kimble and Jones."

Hammam is clutching a fat *brown file, its pages are* daubed with yellow highlighter, noting the youth players in other clubs' reserves that *he might like to buy*, investments for the future of the little big club that Hammam says *wins because it dare not lose.*

"Wimbledon cannot go down," he confides. If we do, we lose not £2 million a year, *but maybe £7 million*, because we lose the television money. We are winners because that is *our only survival, our hope.* Right now we are flavour of the day, as soon as things turn you will see how the dogs *come out.*"

Oldham put Warnock in charge of salvage operation

NEIL WARNOCK and Andy Ritchie were yesterday confirmed as the new management team of Oldham Athletic. Warnock, the former Plymouth Argyle, Huddersfield Town and Notts County manager, has been given until the end of the season to save the club from relegation.

Oldham are bottom of the Nationwide League first division and today face Bradford City, who are one place above them. Ritchie is returning to *the club where he enjoyed the* best spell of his playing career.

"We have nine home games left and I hope we can put together a good run," Warnock, who was sacked by Plymouth at the beginning of the month, said. "I've come here until the end of the season. I am hoping to im*press the chairman but it's a* two-way thing. I hope Oldham impress me as well."

Bobby Robson's future as manager of Barcelona looked more certain yesterday — despite another defeat. A 2-0 *reverse* at Real Sociedad on Thursday meant that Robson's team missed out on a *chance to close the gap on* Real Madrid, the league leaders, and increased the pressure from supporters.

However, Josep Lluis Nuñez, the president said: "Despite the criticism of the *coach, Barcelona remains* the best team and I want Robson to see out this season and the next one as well."

Garry Parker, the Leicester City midfield player, is prepared to make a last-minute *journey from his wife's hospi*tal bedside to play against Derby County at Filbert Street.

Parker's wife, Petra, went into labour four months prematurely earlier this week and *doctors are trying to save the* baby. Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said: "Garry is hoping everything is alright at the hospital and that he will be okay to play. He knows he has until the last *minute before making his* decision."

Talks on the future of Brighton were postponed for a *second time yesterday.*

RUGBY LEAGUE

Branson looking for early success

By Christopher Irvine

ALTHOUGH virgins in business terms, in rugby league terms, London Broncos are no *pushovers*. Richard Branson is due at the newest corner of his empire and will deem his 15 per cent stake in the club particularly worthwhile if Bradford Bulls are beaten in the televised Silk Cut Chall*enge Cup fifth-round tie* today.

It was a tremendous effort last season by London to finish in the *top four of the* Super League. The backbone of that side remains, but the Broncos have brought with them from their Queensland training camp a fresh crop of young Australians, including Josh White, *the former Illawarra* scrum half, of whom much is expected alongside Tulsen Tollett, the *Great Britain* international.

Until a much-vaunted youth system begins to percolate through to the first XIII the Broncos must rely on imported talent. As outrageous as his claim about the Broncos being *the* world force in three or four years sounded, Barry Maran*ta, like Branson, gets results.* Before he bought the London club, Maranta helped make Brisbane Broncos the biggest sporting organisation in Australia.

At the redeveloped Stoop *Memorial ground, there is the* chance to put down roots and tap into the potentially big audience that Maranta and Branson are convinced exists. A winning side is imperative, and if London could reach the *final at Wembley, on May 3,* they really will have arrived.

However, the instantly recognisable player to watchers of Harlequins, who the Broncos hope to convert in their tenancy agreement with *the rugby union club*, is Robbie Paul, the Bradford captain. After his recent short spell with Harlequins, Paul is *more familiar with the tightly-*packed ground than the Broncos players.

Paul, 21, already has a place in Challenge Cup history as the player who scored three tries and was on the losing *side in the classic final against* St Helens last year. If they find some way of stifling his *mercurial talents*, London can cause an upset. The Bulls had the edge last year in two close encounters.

Iestyn Harris, the Wales and Britain back, who has not played for Warrington since the club put him for sale last July at a *prohibitive* £1.35 million, is among the substitutes for the home tie against *Sheffield Eagles* tomorrow. Until he was invited to return last week, he trained alone. His value was underlined in a *try-scoring comeback on* Thursday for the reserve team.

In a third all-Super League tie, home advantage and a veteran pack, in which David Hulme, 33, is promoted from the bench, should see Salford *through at the expense of Paris* Saint-Germain.

Lee Briers, 19, takes over the scrum half and place-kicking responsibilities from the suspended Bobbie Goulding for St Helens, at home to Hull.

Le Tissier stands by his Italian job

Dominique Baldy hears the England striker reject criticism of his role

Matthew *Le Tissier* has spoken for the first time about his disappointment in England's *defeat by Italy in their World* Cup qualifying match and about the criticism heaped upon him afterwards.

"I knew that if we didn't win, then no matter how well I played, the story would be it *was because Hoddle took a* gamble by picking Le Tissier," he said. "If the header I had in the first half had gone in, the *headlines would have been* very different. But I'm not surprised by the reaction, as the press have been waiting for a while for a chance to have a go at me and now they've taken it."

Le Tissier, who will be playing for Southampton against Sheffield Wednesday *today*, said that the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, did not *hold him responsible for En*gland's failure. "I've spoken to Glenn on the phone since the game and he told me that, *watching the video of the* match since, he thought I looked the player most likely to score and that he now *feels he should have kept me on a* little longer."

In Le Tissier's view, the new coach to the *Italy team,* Cesare Maldini, has rejuvenated a side demoralised by the tactics of his predecessor, Arrigo Sacchi, *and it was hardly* coincidental that, confronted by a reorganised Italian defence right on top of its game, none of England's attacking *players enjoyed a night to* remember.

"Why can't we just acknowledge the fact that the Italians *are a very good team?*" Le Tissier asked. "People forget they were only knocked out of *the European championship* early because the coach at the time messed about with the side so much." Le Tissier is, *perhaps, more angered by* what he considers a distortion of the facts surrounding allegations that his brother, Carl, was *responsible* for leaking Hoddle's team in advance.

"That's been completely *misunderstood.* Newspapers printed the team the morning of the game and I understand it was in the Italian papers the day before. Radio Guernsey then went to my brother with that information and asked *him* for his reaction to my being selected. Nobody seems to have asked who was responsible for the original leak *and I find that annoying.*"

Le Tissier's next opportunity to launch an international career *that has yet to fully* get off the ground should come against Mexico on March 29. If he manages to illuminate *that evening with one of his* moments of genius, the disappointment of ten days ago will soon be forgotten. If not, then *he* will have no illusions about what to expect in the newspapers the next day.

Keelan plans Wembley return

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

KEVAN KEELAN will be urging his Mossley team to *throw every last ounce of effort* into the FA Carlsberg Vase quarter-final at Whitby Town *today and so bring the pros*pect of appearing at Wembley the step and a hop of a two-legged semi-final away.

Keelan *went to Wembley as* a player when Mossley reached the 1980 FA Trophy final and again *as a coach* with Witton Albion when they played Colchester United in the 1992 Trophy final. His *enthusiasm remains* undimmed by memories of a 2-1 defeat for Mossley — "I had a header in the *last minute from* a yard out. The ground was particularly hard that year and I headed it down and it went over the bar," — and a 3-1 defeat for Witton.

"I think *if you've been there* once, the craving is stronger than if you've never been *there*," Keelan said. He knows, however, that it will take something out of the ordinary for the players to *follow their manager, now 44,* out at Wembley on May 10.

Whitby Town are formidable opponents. They have already hit the headlines by reaching the FA Cup first round, before going out 8-4 *after extra time in a replay to* Hull City, and are having a fine season in the Northern League. "*I've seen them play* and they are a very strong side," Keelan said. "They beat Tiverton in the last round, who had won every game they'd played in their league, so they *must now* be the favourites for the Vase."

In the other Vase quarter-finals, *it is Taunton Town's* task to try where Tiverton Town failed and win on Northern League territory at *Guisborough Town*. Bedlington Terriers, the Northern League's third representatives, travel to North Ferriby United and Northwood Town meet Banstead Athletic in an all-Icis-League confrontation.

☐ *The former Wales striker*, Malcolm Allen, has joined Stevenage Borough, the Vauxhall Conference champions, and travels with their squad for the game at Stalybridge tomorrow.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

STOCKHOLM: International meeting (winners and British): Men: 60m: B Surin (Can) 6.51. 400m: 1, D Hall (US) 46.42; 2, G Bullock (GB) 46.42. 1,000m: M Koers (Holl) 2min 17.77sec. 1,500m: 1, W Tanui (Ken) 3:36.89; 2, M O'Sullivan (Ire) 3:37.40. 5,000m: H Gebrselassie (Eth) 12:59.04 (world record). High jump: T Janku (Cz) 2.33m. Long jump: I Pedroso (Cuba) 8.22m. Pole vault: O Brits (SA) 5.86m. Women: 60m hurdles: M Freeman (Jam) 7.80. 800m: M Mutola (Moz) 1:58.02. High jump: B Bilac (Slovenia) 1.94m. Triple jump: A Hansen (GB) 14.53m.

BASKETBALL

EUROLEAGUE: Group E: Maccabi Tel Aviv 82 C[illegible]niakos (Gr) 78.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 92 Denver 68, Miami 92 New Jersey 87; Philadelphia 101 LA Clippers 84; Milwaukee 101 Dallas 99. Houston 107 Toronto 97. Utah 122 Boston 105. New York 109 Sacramento 87.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	25	55	good	varied	worn	sun	-1	20/2
(Good on upper slopes, getting patchy low down)								
Mayrhofen	65	85	good	varied	closed	fine	0	19/2
(Most pistes in very good shape on both mountains)								
Schladming	30	50	good	varied	icy	fair	9	20/1
(Lowest runs icy/slushy: good higher up)								
Soll	30	70	good	heavy	good	sun	2	19/2
(Generally excellent: some south facing runs slushy)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	115	260	good	varied	good	sun	0	18/2
(Superb skiing under sunny skies)								
Méribel	50	185	good	varied	good	sun	5	18/2
(Great skiing in brilliant sunshine)								
Tignes	160	225	good	varied	good	fine	1	18/2
(Wonderful skiing conditions everywhere)								
SWITZERLAND								
Crans Montana	55	330	good	powder	good	fine	4	18/2
(Good skiing on well-prepared pistes)								
Klosters	35	190	good	varied	good	fine	2	20/2
(Great skiing everywhere, superb weather)								
Verbier	50	185	good	varied	worn	sun	3	18/2
(Great skiing above 2,000m, getting worn below)								
Zermatt	40	280	good	varied	fair	sun	1	19/2
(Very good skiing, some slush low down in pm)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Durban (second day of four): Natal 335 (M L Bruyns 105, D M Benkenstein 103; J N Gillespie 4-71) and 21-0; Australians 370 (M E Waugh 124, M G Bevan 52; P L Symcox 4-117).

CYCLING

RUTA DEL SOL: Fifth stage (Grenada, 107km): 1, J Museeuw (Bel) 2hr 43min 20sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger); 3, A Edo (Sp); 4, V Ekimov (Russ); 5, J Planckaert (Bel); 6, D Etxebarria (Sp); 7, A Canzonieri (It); 8, G Hincapie (US); 9, T Hamilton (US); 10, S Smetanine (Russ) all same time.

FOOTBALL

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 0 Ramsgate 0. Group four: Gremio (Br) 2 Cruzeiro (Br) 1. SCHOOLS MATCHES: London Cup under-15: Middlesex 4 Kent 0. English Knowles Cup under-14: Middlesex 2 Kent 4. English Schools Snickers under-19 Trophy: Barry Boys, Cardiff 2 King's, Cheshire 3 (aet). English Goodyear under-18 Trophy: Bedminster Down, Gloucester 6 Churston GS 0. FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Norfolk 3 Bedfordshire 1. English Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Tarporley 1 Bridgnorth Endowed 0.
SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Sociedad 2 Barcelona 0.
COPA LIBERTADORES: First round: Group one: Guarani (Par) 1 Cerro Porteno (Par) 0. Group two: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 2 Racing Club (Arg) 1; Emelec (Ecu) 2 Nacional (Ecu) 1. Group three: Colo Colo (Chile) 2 Universidad Catolica (Chile) 2.
DUNHILL CUP: China 3 Singapore 1; Finland 1 Malaysia 2 (both in Kuala Lumpur).

FREESTYLE SKIING

KIRCHBERG, Austria: World Cup event: Aerials: Men: 1, J Bean (Can) 230.91pts; 2, N Fontaine (Can) 230.73pts; 3, A Capicik (Can) 226.46; 4, J-D Cimonet (Fr) 209.97; 5, B Swartley (US) 204.24. Women: 1, C Oliver (Can) 172.27pts; 2, V Brenner (Can) 172.13; 3, N Orechova (Russ) 171.62; 4, M Rohrbach (Switz) 170.61; 5, N Stone (US) 164.41. Moguls: Men: 1, T Hernery (Fr); 2, S Smith (US); 3, J Ronnback (Swe); 4, J-L Brassard (Can); 5, F Bertrand (Fr). Women: 1, C Gilg (Fr); 2, A Battelle (US); 3, K Traa (Nor); 4, J Charbonneau (Can); 5, A Bolbjerg (Den).

GOLF

JOHANNESBURG: Alfred Dunhill South African PGA Championship: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 131: R Goosen (SA) 65, 66. 132: D Frost (SA) 69, 63; T Gogele (Ger) 64, 68. 133: N Price (Zim) 67, 66; M Scarpa (It) 65, 68. 134: W Westner (SA) 68, 66; V Phillips 70, 64; G Emerson 67, 67; B May (US) 66, 68; K Tomori (Japan) 67, 67. 135: M Murless (SA) 66, 69; N Fasth (Swe) 66, 69; P Lawrie 69, 66; M Anglert (Swe) 68, 67; C Whitelaw (SA) 68, 67. 136: C Kamps (SA) 68, 68; N van Rensburg (SA) 68, 68; M Archer 68, 68. 137: M Mackenzie 69, 68; A Roestoff (SA) 67, 70; G Clark 68, 69; H Baiocchi (SA) 69, 68; A McLean (SA) 66, 71; D Terblanche (SA) 69, 68; G Sherry 69, 68; B Ott (US) 68, 69; J Nelson (SA) 66, 71; M Gortana (It) 70, 67. 138: B Vaughan (SA) 68, 70; I Garrido (Sp) 69, 69; D Carter 74, 64; C Watts 69, 69; W Bradley (SA) 68, 70; R Jacquelin (Fr) 71, 67; M McNulty (Zim) 69, 69; N Vanhootegem (Bel) 69, 69; M Goggin (Aus) 69, 69; T Hutchings (SA) 67, 71; I Garbutt 70, 68; M Jonzon (Swe) 70, 68; G Chalmers (Aus) 70, 68; P McGinley 71, 67; F Allem (SA) 69, 69; A Coltart 69, 69.
SYDNEY: Canon Challenge: Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated): 137: D Ecob 70, 67; S Alker (NZ) 67, 70; R Stephens 69, 68; P Lonard 68, 69; C Gray 66, 71. 138: L Parsons 67, 71; P Senior 68, 70. 139: T Teshima (Japan) 71, 68; R Allenby 70, 69. 140: M Wheelhouse (NZ) 69, 71; D Smail (NZ) 68, 72.
TUCSON, Arizona: Tucson Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 66: J Maggert, S Jones. 67: D Pooley, C Rose, R Tway, S Dunlap, J Hart. 68: K Triplett, B Bryant, M Wiebe, J D Blake. 69: S Gump, W Andrade, N Ozaki (Japan), D Duval, T Kite, J McGovern, R Cochran.
KAPOLEI: LPGA Hawaiian Open: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 65: N Noro (Japan). 67: E King, T Kerdyk, A Sorenstam (Swe), K Robbins. 68: D Eggeling, L Lindley. 69: B Whitehead, V Skinner, A Ritzman, D Richard (Can), M Mallon, P Hurst. European scores: 70: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp), L Davies (GB). 73: C Nilsmark (Swe), K Marshall (GB). 74: C Pierce (GB), C Sorenstam (Swe), C Hj Koch (Swe). 75: E Dahllof (Swe), A Dibos (Sp), S Croce (It). 76: S Strudwick (GB).

HOCKEY

AMIENS, France: European women's indoor club championship: A division: Pool A: Russelsheim (Ger) 6 Siauliai (Lith) 2. Pool B: Berlin 15 Lokomotiva Racs (Slovakia) 1; Slough 8 Donchanka (Russ) 5.
BUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS: Quarter-finals: Men: Heriot-Watt 1 Swansea 0. Women: Birmingham 3 Exeter 0. Semi-final draw: Men: Brunel v Loughborough; Crewe/Alsager v Heriot-Watt. Women: Birmingham v Edinburgh; Durham v Loughborough.

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff 6 Manchester 4; Ayr 7 Newcastle 0; Bracknell 5 Sheffield 6 (OT).
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 2 New Jersey 2 (OT); Tampa Bay 5 Philadelphia 2, Chicago 5 Boston 3, St Louis 1 Ottawa 1 (OT); Los Angeles 3 Anaheim 1; Vancouver 6 San Jose 1.

LACROSSE

HIGH WYCOMBE: Territorial tournament: North bt Midlands 14-2; North bt British Universities 12-4; West bt Midlands 6-2, West bt East 5-4.

NORDIC SKIING

TRONDHEIM, Norway: World championships: Freestyle: Men (30km): 1, A Prokurorov (Russ) 1hr 08min 28.2sec; 2, B Daehlie (Nor) 1:06 45.6; 3, T Alsgaard (Nor) 1:06 49.2; 4, P P Cottrer (It) 1:07 12.8; 5, F Valbusa (It) 1:07 35.7. Women (15km): 1, E Valbe (Russ) 36min 28.2sec; 2, S Belmondo (It) 36 39.1; 3, K Neumannova (Cz) 36:42.0; 4, O Danilova (Russ) 37:13.2; 5, N Gavriluk (Russ) 37:19.5.

SHOOTING

ALDERSLEY: British open air pistol championships: Men: 1, P Leatherdale (Norwich) 489.9pts; 2, M Gault (Norwich) 676.6; 3, W Hill (Rokesby) 667.2. Women: 1, C Page (Marylebone) 427.7pts; 2, L Elsworthy (Stanley) 472.6; 3, L Bird (East Bristol) 470.1. Junior men: 1, S Martin (Parkstone) 672.5pts; 2, S Preston (York) 658.6; 3, N Schreiver 652.6. Junior women: 1, H Preston (York) 486.1pts; 2, P Leech (Keswick) 460.3; 3; F Baskerville (Lichfield) 474.2. Dunton Plate (aggregate): 1, Gault 1,145pts; 2, S Preston 1,145; 3, Leatherdale 1,145 (on countback).

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British amateur doubles championship: Quarter-finals: T Cockcroft and R Owen-Browne bt S Kverndal and M Henman 15-2, 15-4, 15-7, 15-1; G Barker and A Robinson bt A de Cadenet and C Hill 15-3, 15-2, 15-0, 15-6; W Boone and M Windows bt K Walker and C Worlidge 15-1, 15-3, 15-0, 15-8.

SKIING

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany: World Cup event: Super-giant slalom: 1, L Alphand (Fr) 1min 15.32sec; 2, H Maier (Austria) 1 15.87; 3, W Perathoner (It) 1 15.90; 4, E Podivinsky (Can) 1:15.96; 5, K A Aamodt (Nor) 1:15.97. Super-G standings: 1, Alphand 232pts; 2, P Runggaldier (It) 136; 3, H Knaus (Austria) 127; 4, J Strobl (Austria) 124; 5, A Skaardal (Nor) 112. Overall World Cup standings: 1, Alphand 837pts; 2, Aamodt 786; 3, T Sykora (Austria) 688; 4, K Ghedina (It) 662; 5, M von Grünigen (Switz) 622.

SQUASH

ANTWERP: Esso Open: First round: Zarak Jahan (Pak) bt D Preece (Eng) 15-13, 12-15, 15-9, 17-14; A Hands (Eng) bt R Lavingne (Bel) 15-7, 15-9, 15-10; J Nicolle (Eng) bt T Lincou (Fr) 15-9, 15-12, 10-15, 15-12; A Gough (Wales) bt A Fawzy (Egypt) 15-9, 15-17, 15-12, 10-15, 15-6; S Casteleyn (Bel) bt C van der Wath (SA) 17-15, 8-15, 8-15, 15-5, 15-10; P Johnson (Eng) bt H Stiff (Eng) 9-15, 15-7, 15-6, 15-11; D Meddings (Eng) bt J Raumolin (Fin) 15-9, 15-9, 15-1; B Haddrell (Aus) bt A Wagih (Egypt) 11-15, 15-9, 15-17, 15-6, 15-7.

SWIMMING

LEEDS: Grand prix meeting: Finals: Men: 50m freestyle: 1, B Morgan (Carnegie) 24.73; 2, G Meadows (City of Leeds) 24.80; 3, A Clayton (City of Leeds) 24.83. 1,500m freestyle: 1, I Wilson (City of Leeds) 15min 57.54sec; 2, G Hudson (Portsmouth) 16:06.61; 3, D Nuttall (Wigan Wasps) 16:23.43. 100m breaststroke: 1, B Kuipers (DWK Barneveld) 1:03.26; 2, R Maiden (Rochdale) 1:03.91; 3, A Whitehead (Coventry) 1:05.26. 100m butterfly: 1, C Jones (Newcastle) 57.71; 2, R Greenwood (Bolton Metro) 57.74; 3, B Wennekes (DWK Barneveld) 57.88.

TENNIS

EASTBOURNE: LTA men's indoor satellite tournament: Quarter-finals: A Richardson (GB) bt L Milligan (GB) 6-2, 6-1; I Tchelychev (Russ) bt T Tekola (Fin) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; D van Uffelen (Bel) bt V Liukko (Fin) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; M Stadling (Swe) bt C Beecher (GB) 7-5, 6-4.
ANTWERP: Men's tournament: Second round: M Damm (Cz) bt M Rios (Chile) 4-6, 7-5, 7-6; T Henman (GB) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-2, 6-3; F Dewulf (Bel) bt C Pioline (Fr) 7-6, 6-4; D Norman (Bel) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-3, 1-6, 7-6. Quarter-finals: P Korda (Cz) bt Norman 6-3, 6-4; M Göllner (Ger) bt Damm 3-1 ret.
MEMPHIS, Tennessee: Men's tournament: Third round: P Haarhuis (Holl) bt C Woodruff (US) 6-4, 6-4; R Reneberg (US) bt S Sargsian (Arm) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt M Norman (Swe) 7-5, 6-3; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt J Frana (Arg) 6-0, 6-4; B Steven (NZ) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 7-6, 6-4; T Martin (US) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6.
HANOVER: Women's tournament: Second round: M Oremans (Holl) bt A Huber (Ger) 6-0, 5-7, 6-4; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt D van Roost (Bel) 6-1, 6-2; A-G Sidot (Fr) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-3, 4-6, 7-5. Quarter-finals: M Maleeva (Bul) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-1, 6-4; J Novotna (Cz) bt Likhovtseva 6-4, 6-2; B Paulus (Austria) bt Oremans 7-6, 6-4; I Majoli (Cro) bt Sidot 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.
OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament: Second round: K Po (US) bt L Lee (US) 6-1, 6-4; L Raymond (US) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-4, 6-3; P Shriver (US) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-4, 6-3; J Capriati (US) bt K Nagatsuka (Japan) 6-3, 6-2.
REDBRIDGE: Women's tournament: Quarter-final: N Dechy (Fr) bt P Gaspar (Hun) 6-2, 6-2. Semi-finals: E Tatarkova (Ukr) bt Dechy 6-0, 6-4; M Sánchez-Lorenzo (Sp) bt S-A Siddall (GB) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

RESULTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PUTTER AT RYE

FIRST ROUND: J Dale (Cambridge) bt J M Peel (Oxford) 4 and 3; E R Dexter (Cambridge) bt A J Morley (Oxford) 3 and 2; R J Bisson (Oxford) wo; A J Hampel (Oxford) wo; D J Warden (Cambridge) wo; C E Travers (Cambridge) bt M E Attenborough (Oxford) 1 hole; A G Edmond (Cambridge) wo, T J Hanson (Cambridge) bt W P Cooper (Cambridge) 7 and 6; P M Guest (Cambridge) bt J R MacKinnon (Oxford) 4 and 3; P Dawson (Cambridge) bt C V Dinwiddy (Oxford) 6 and 5; M R A Cox (Cambridge) bt D D S Comer (Oxford) 1 hole; N Pabari (Oxford) bt J D S Fricker (Oxford) 4 and 3, J E B Stobbs (Cambridge) wo; R P Lawson (Oxford) wo; P J R Souster (Cambridge) bt M G Ebert (Cambridge) 19th hole; P M Green (Cambridge) bt H M J Ritchie (Oxford) 2 and 1.
SECOND ROUND: Dexter bt Dale 2 and 1; Hampel bt Bisson 20th hole; Warden bt Travers 6 and 5, Edmond wo; Hanson bt N J Burke (Oxford) 2 and 1; J S Young (Cambridge) bt A P Stracey (Cambridge) 19th hole; M F Balgent (Cambridge) wo; J E Behrend (Oxford) wo; A de C Aldrich-Blake (Cambridge) wo; O Malik (Cambridge) wo; P F Gardiner-Hill (Oxford) bt P J R Bathurst (Cambridge) 1 hole; C J Weight (Cambridge) bt N B Poplow (Cambridge) 7 and 6, A L Woolnough (Oxford) bt A O Ahlquist (Cambridge) 6 and 5; G M Langford (Oxford) bt P J R Webbe (Cambridge) 6 and 5, J B L Webster (Cambridge) bt R C P Seddon (Oxford) 3 and 2; D I Wilson (Cambridge) wo; P B K Gracey (Oxford) wo; D E F Simons (Cambridge) bt R W Kreiting (Cambridge) 4 and 3; J A S Nash (Oxford) bt G R Ashworth (Oxford) 6 and 5; M G Jerrom (Oxford) wo, M E Baird (Cambridge) bt D J Moody (Cambridge) 3 and 2; R C S Palmer (Cambridge) wo; G L Leach (Oxford) bt A D Chivers (Oxford) 1 hole; R J H Randall (Cambridge) bt C G White (Oxford) 2 and 1; C R Rotheroe (Oxford) wo; M P J Bonney (Cambridge) wo; P J Hill (Oxford) wo, S R Serrian (Oxford) wo; C D Meacher (Cambridge) wo; W J Dugdale (Oxford) bt S A Sharpe (Cambridge) 3 and 2; J I Hampel (Oxford) bt K H A Irwin (Cambridge) 1 hole, R Elliot (Oxford) wo; R W Devlin (Oxford) bt T F Sharp (Oxford) 4 and 3, J J N Caplan (Cambridge) wo; D L Rendall (Oxford) wo, R A Sanders (Oxford) bt J C W Godwin (Cambridge) 5 and 4; M J Dawson (Cambridge) bt R H Patel (Oxford) 3 and 2; T E Tew (Oxford) wo, J G Clark (Oxford) wo; M M Williamson (Cambridge) wo; J M I Warman (Cambridge) wo; C L A Edgington (Oxford) wo; A N Lyle (Oxford) bt P A C Cogan (Cambridge) 19th hole; A G Guest-Gornall (Oxford) bt P H Weller (Oxford) 2 and 1; N J Grant (Cambridge) wo; W H D Barclay (Cambridge) bt G R Hughes (Cambridge) 4 and 3; S M Ritchie (Oxford) bt J G Helfer (Oxford) 6 and 5; J H Palmer (Cambridge) bt Sir Michael Willford (Cambridge) 6 and 5, A H Catchpole (Oxford) bt A Orr Deak (Oxford) 2 and 1; S D Ellis (Cambridge) bt G D Rowlands (Oxford) 7 and 6; M Yates (Oxford) wo; E Gilchrist (Cambridge) bt J H Churchill (Cambridge) 5 and 4; M S P Banks (Oxford) bt A D Swanston (Cambridge) 4 and 3; Guest (Cambridge) wo; Dawson bt Cox 3 and 2; J E B Stobbs (Cambridge) bt Pabari 19th hole; Lawson bt Souster 5 and 4; Green wo.

IN BRIEF

Ashes series pulls in the crowds

INTEREST in the visit by the Australia cricket team this *summer* has reached unprecedented levels, despite England having not come close to *winning the Ashes for a de*cade (Simon Wilde writes). Demand for tickets at the six *Test matches and three* Texaco Trophy matches has been strong since November and *has little to do with England's* successes in New Zealand.

Most Test grounds are reporting higher than usual *demand for this time of year,* though seats are still available for all matches outside the *capital.*

☐ Shaun Young, the Australian all-rounder, was yesterday named as Gloucester*shire's overseas player for the* coming season. He will replace Courtney Walsh.

☐ **Football:** England face a tough task *to qualify* for the 1999 women's World Cup finals in the United States. England have been drawn in a group with the 1995 champi*ons*, Norway, beaten finalists, Germany, and Holland.

☐ ***Swimming:*** *Jaime King,* the British Olympic swimmer, yesterday reached the final of the 50-metre breast*stroke with a time of* 34.91sec at the Leeds Multi Nations Gala.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

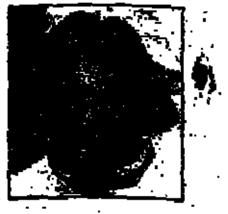
RACING 46, 47

Nicholson deals up strong hand for Racing Post Chase

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 46

Dawson returns to centre stage in Pilkington Cup



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1997

Shake hands for good of the game

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on why Wright and Schmeichel must bury the hatchet in a public reconciliation

FOR the better part of an hour at Highbury on Wednesday, football was enriched by a spectacle of ball-control beyond anyone's expectations in gale-force conditions.

By the end of the night, that enrichment was contaminated by irresponsible behaviour by Ian Wright; and from then until today, instead of just a game, the affair has disintegrated into a question of racism that, in the present climate of the country, is dangerous beyond the emotions of sport.

Wright appeared on television on Thursday night to disclaim any culpability. "I did nothing wrong," he insisted. "He [Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, whose leg might have been broken by Wright's horrendous two-footed tackle] is my fellow pro and I'm not going to say I want anything to happen to him."

So, the Arsenal idol, Wright, insists that he made no complaint about an alleged racist remark from Schmeichel when they last met and rowed in public at Old Trafford in November, insists that he won the ball with his tackle, insists that nothing untoward happened in the tunnel at the end of the Premiership game on Wednesday. The television pictures, the still photographs — showing not only the destructive nature of Wright's tackle, but the bitter dislike of these two professional performers for one another — and the evidence of police intervention in the tunnel are, then, all bogus.

This is a sickening ramification of bad blood that has festered between United and Arsenal for a decade. It spilt over into a mass brawl involving 21 players in 1990; clearly too few people learnt from the fines of £50,000 imposed on each club and the deduction of points. And, apart from Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), no one has acted swiftly between Wednesday night and Saturday morning to try to take responsibility, to acknowledge that something has to be done and quickly if the national sport is to maintain its integrity.

Football, perhaps more than any other single activity, can bring harmony between the races. The sight of Schmeichel, big and blond and Danish, verbally bullying those around him, including some of his own defenders, is destabilising. Wright, black and from south London, can be a charming, even loquacious conversationalist, yet he came late into football with a chip on both shoulders and his record of indiscipline is a litany of obscenities, both visual and verbal.

To wait, as the Football Association is customarily doing for reports, to wait inevitably for the processes of law, emanating from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) investigation into the first alleged racist argument between the pair, at Old Trafford, cannot help either football or society.

One does not advocate making the game a law beyond judiciary. But even if, in two weeks, the CPS decides that Schmeichel has a case to answer, the long and grinding and flawed process through the courts would leave impressions as ugly as stud marks on the game and on the public's view of intolerance within it.

The allegation against the Denmark international was refuted yesterday by Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager. "We can categorically deny any racist remark whatsoever from Peter Schmeichel," he said.

However, Taylor was correct to seek — before the coming-together in acrimony of Wright and Schmeichel on Wednesday — to act as mediator between the pair. He was correct in suggesting that the FA was the proper umbrella for this mediation, but what a pity that Lancaster Gate dithered, preferring to put off any action unless, or until, police concluded their investigation.

Wright, of course, can do no wrong. Arsenal, inevitably, tell us so. Arsène Wenger, their French manager, chose yesterday to joke: "Maybe they will meet before the next game and sort this out — and kill one another!"

These are the very last words we need to hear in the present situation. We have a public game, two highly paid public figures and around them an atmosphere in which a national newspaper has recently taken upon itself to name, with photographs, white youths who they say killed a black person simply because of racial intolerance.

This afternoon, in stadiums throughout Britain, football again will engage our emotions. The winner-takes-all philosophy means that some player, somewhere, may take his cue from Wright, a member of the England international squad.

"I have seen many, many tackles and punches that have not been judged or seen by referees and nobody talks about them." Wenger insisted. His own club happens to be bottom of the fair play league, with 59 yellow cards and four red ones in 27 FA Carling Premiership games, yet Wenger will not apologise for indiscipline.

If Arsenal has nothing better to offer in this matter, if the FA is merely lying back waiting, then perhaps Taylor must go it alone. Football needs an immediate and public handshake, a cessation of hostile words and actions, from Wright and Schmeichel. One hopes that the PFA can arrange this, can, in the sporting vernacular, "knock their heads together" and remind the players of Arsenal and Manchester United what they earn from the game and what they owe to the public.

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Chelsea prepare for test of title credentials

Gullit fails to tempt Kluivert from Ajax

By Russell Kempson and Peter Ball

RUUD GULLIT'S empire building at Chelsea has received a temporary setback, with Patrick Kluivert, the Holland and Ajax striker, having declined to join the expanding foreign legion at Stamford Bridge. Gullit's audacious attempt failed because of Kluivert's preference to play in Italy, for AC Milan, rather than in England when he leaves Ajax at the end of the season.

Gullit's move, though unsuccessful, is barely surprising. His contacts extend deep into Europe, built from a highly successful playing career, and he has persuaded Gianluca Vialli, Gianfranco Zola, Roberto Di Matteo and Frank Leboeuf to forsake the continent for West London this season.

The offers of vast salaries have helped entice the three Italians and Leboeuf, a Frenchman, but even reported wages of £25,000-a-week were not enough to lure Kluivert, 20, from Amsterdam. He will follow a similar route to Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, who left PSV Eindhoven for AC Milan in 1987.

"I wanted Patrick but I couldn't get him," Gullit said yesterday, after completing his side's preparations for their FA Carling Premiership match against Manchester United at Stamford Bridge this afternoon. "He made his own decision and wanted to try things in Italy.

"I made an attempt. I watched him, I did everything. Nobody knows that, but I go to Holland often and I do my job. But if the player wants to make the same adventure as I did, that's OK." Gullit may yet try again. "I've told Patrick that I will wait a year and if it does not go well for him, then I will be back. I am making preparations for next season and anyone can see that we are short of bodies. We don't need just players, we need good players."

Kluivert: bound for Milan

However, Paul Ince, the England and Internazionale midfield player, does not enter the Chelsea equation. Gullit was unimpressed by the pairing of Ince and David Batty, of Newcastle United, when England lost 1-0 to Italy in their World Cup qualifying match at Wembley last week.

"I have no interest in Paul," Gullit said. "We have a similar player in Eddie Newton and having two players like that, you will get the same thing that happened for England against Italy. I'm very happy with Eddie, he's doing very well and I don't need him and Ince in the same area."

Chelsea need to win today to retain any interest in the title chase. They trail United, the leaders, by 12 points, but have games in hand and were the last side to beat them, when they won 2-1 at Old Trafford in November.

Mark Hughes, the Chelsea striker, who spent 13 years with United, recognises there is no room for error. "If we don't get any kind of result, it will be difficult for us to make a challenge," he said. "I'm not saying it would be the end for us, but it would make them very difficult to catch.

"United have been setting the standards for the last five or six years. Week in, week out, they turn in results. That's what we have to find. They never panic, they always keep their shape and do what they believe in because they know it works. We've got to get on to that level. What helps United is winning things for years — that breeds confidence. Until we win something, we'll be behind them."

Dennis Wise, the Chelsea midfield player, said: "We always seem to do well against United and now everyone is praying that we beat them again, open it up and give everyone else a chance.

"It's a big game for us, but we have plan which we will stick to. We know we're capable of achieving a place in Europe; now we will find out if we can go on to something more."

United's pursuit of a fourth title in five years was strengthened by their decisive, if controversial, 2-1 victory against Arsenal at Highbury on Wednesday night — a result that stretched their unbeaten league run to 14 matches. Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, was again involved in an unsavoury incident with Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker.

"The players are strong, they have looked really good in training and they are handling the whole thing the right way," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "They are not going to be derailed. We must keep focused and not think of side issues."

Schmeichel has two stud marks and swelling on his right ankle, the legacy of a late challenge from Wright, but is expected to retain his place. Gary Pallister and Denis Irwin are doubtful because of injuries and Eric Cantona completes a two-match suspension, but Ferguson is likely to continue with the experimental pairing of Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer up front.

Blackburn left in limbo by Eriksson's Italian job

By David Maddock

IT WAS the worst kept secret in football, but Blackburn Rovers finally stopped deluding themselves long enough to concede, yesterday, a truth that anybody with a passing interest has known for months — Sven Goran Eriksson, the Swede, will not be joining them as the next manager.

In a terse statement, Jack Walker, the owner of Blackburn, expressed his disappointment after a lengthy conversation with Eriksson resolved the saga.

"He has told us that he and his family want to stay in Italy, and that he would like to join Lazio when his contract with Sampdoria expires," Walker said. "It is terribly disappointing because we had a firm contract with him and we were looking forward to him coming here."

Eriksson, for his part, did have the grace to apologise. "I would like to say sorry to the Blackburn supporters because the speculation cannot have been easy for them to accept," he said. "It has been an unfair situation and I was anxious to conclude it as soon as possible. My family are very happy and settled here."

So Blackburn find themselves in a familiar position, that of searching for a manager of sufficiently high profile to appease their restless supporters and lift the club back to the heights that Walker has come to demand.

It took longer than a month to arrive at Eriksson when Ray Harford resigned in November and Blackburn will be hoping that another successor can be found with more haste, despite the continuing excellence of Tony Parkes, the man detailed to act as a caretaker manager until Eriksson's proposed arrival in the summer.

They may already, in fact, have a suitable candidate, who was alerted during the last round of approaches. Roy Hodgson, the English-born coach of Internazionale, in Milan, had considered joining Rovers — on a contract also delayed until the summer — before Eriksson's agreement curtailed discussions.

Things have deteriorated somewhat in Italy since then for Hodgson and he is apparently keen to prove himself in his homeland. Blackburn have not been as hesitant in a search for a manager this time around. They have already made informal contact with Hodgson and received an encouraging reply. Formal talks could begin almost immediately.

At least one new face arrived at Blackburn yesterday in the shape of Per Pedersen, 27, a Denmark international who moved there for £2.5 million from Odense. He signed a 4½-year contract after passing a medical examination that lasted 11 hours and will be in the squad to play Liverpool this afternoon.

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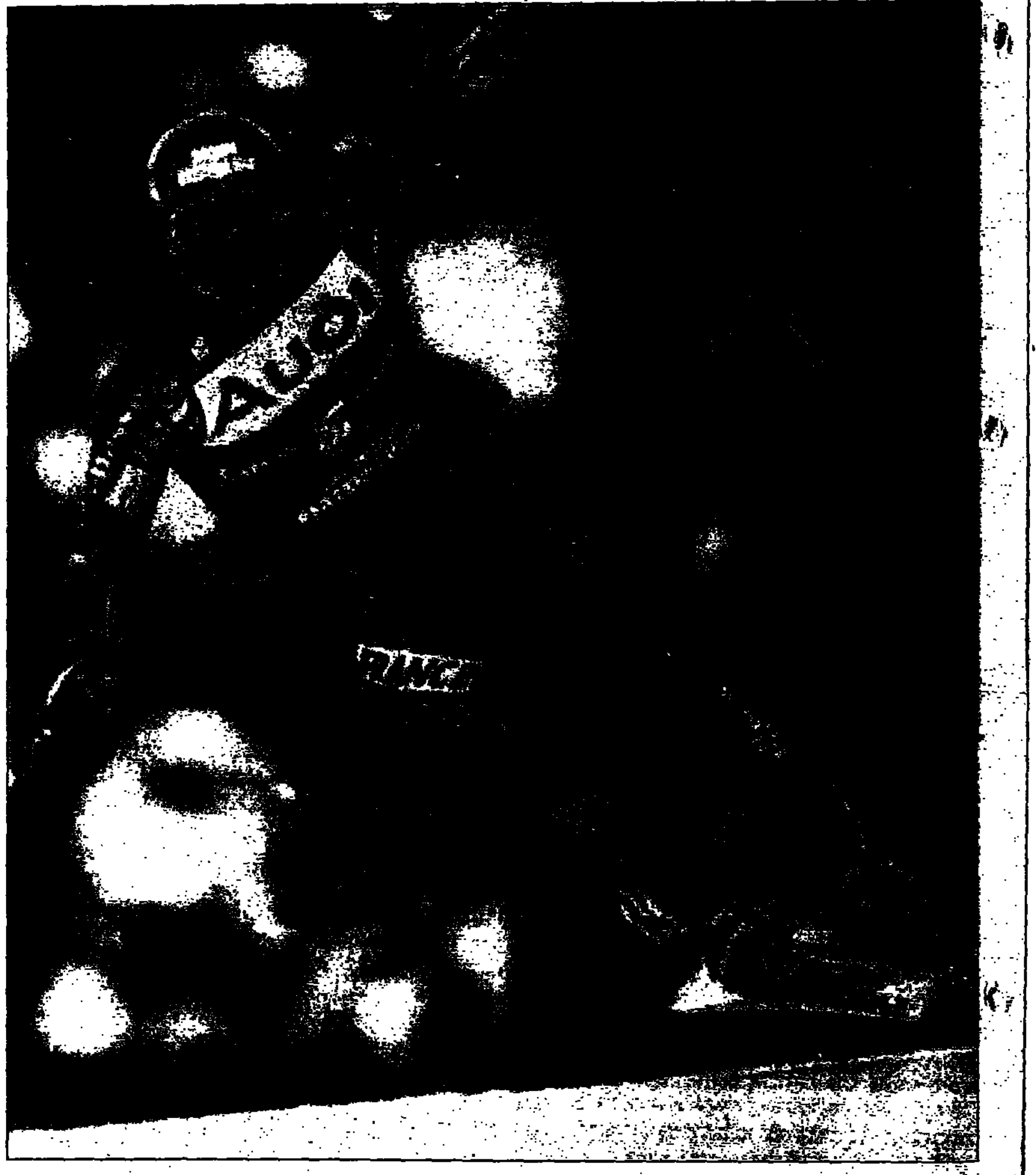
CLAUDIO SCACCHINI



Luc Alphand, of France, hurtles towards victory in the super giant slalom World Cup event at Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday, proving that his failure to win a medal at the recent world championships in Sestriere was a rare aberration in an all-conquering season. His success gave him the lead in the overall World Cup standings. "Forget about the world championships," he said. "That's all water under the bridge."

Hingis replaces Graf in driving seat

By Our Sports Staff

MARTINA HINGIS, the Swiss tennis sensation, who is not yet old enough to drive, has signed a three-year sponsorship deal with Opel, the car company. In the latest of a series of business agreements, Hingis, 16, signed a three-year contract with the General Motors subsidiary on Thursday. She replaces Steffi Graf, the world No 1 from Germany, whose contract with the company was terminated last year in the wake of the scandal surrounding her tax affairs.

GM Europe officials declined to say how much they will pay Hingis to wear their logo, star in commercials and smile at corporate events, but informed speculation is that it will be about $680,000 [£430,000] per year.

Hingis, who won the Australian Open last month to become the youngest grand-slam event champion in 100 years, has moved up to No 2 in the world rankings. Even before her recent triumph in Melbourne, she had signed a $10 million, five-year deal with Sergio Tacchini, the Italian sportswear company.

A GM Europe spokesman said yesterday: "Relations remain good between us and Steffi Graf, even though there is no formal contract. We didn't separate on bad terms."

He added that GM Europe had had close links with Hingis and her family for the past four years. "It's just a new chapter," he said.

Marc Göllner, of Germany, made comfortable progress into the semi-finals of the European Community championship in Antwerp yesterday as Martin Damm, his opponent from the Czech Republic, retired injured soon after the start of their match. Damm, ranked No 48 in the world, had needed treatment for a twisted ankle on Thrusday in the closing stages of his second-round victory over Marcelo Rios, the No 2 seed from Chile.

Göllner, the world No 57, had not beaten Damm in their two previous meetings but was in complete control during the 15-minute contest; he broke the Czech's service to go 2-0 ahead and took a 3-0 lead with an ace. Göllner faces the winner of the quarter-final between Tim Henman, the British No 1 and sole surviving seed, and Francisco Clavet, a clay-court battler from Spain, who has taken three sets to win each of his previous two matches.

To really fly to Paris or Brussels, take Eurostar from Ashford, Kent.

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Ginny Dougary: men dining *à deux*

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weekend

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1997

LINDA McDOUGALL PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN ANGERSON

Waiting for E-Day

Is a ministerial post on the cards? Or will the appalling tie kill off her husband's chances? **Linda McDougall** tells the inside story of electioneering on the home front

FRIDAY

Austin has a letter from Tony Blair in the post at home asking him for help in running the country.

"*... together you and I can make it possible for everyone to have a fair chance of a job...*".

Rapid shallow breathing. Then we spot:

"*... if you intend to vote Labour, will you send us fifteen quid...*"

A cruel trick. You'd think they'd be more sensitive in the pan-handling unit at Millbank Tower.

I've booked us a holiday. We're off on the 21st of March or the 11th of April or the 2nd of May. It's up to John Major. Austin [Mitchell] has been MP for Grimsby for nearly 20 years and, now that there's a distinct possibility of a Labour victory, local people who don't understand the secret world of Westminster are asking him what ministerial job he'll get, and what car.

Having "difficult" views on Europe, and a rapidly approaching bus pass make an MP, well, hard to place (unless he's Alan Clark). Austin doesn't really want to sit around explaining his failure, while the phone never rings. So we're off to Death Valley, California.

One of the few perks I get as an MP's wife is 15 first-class return tickets between London and home every year. On Friday afternoons I head for King's Cross and the Great North Eastern Railway (InterCity privatised, but still preserving the unique public relations style of old British Rail).

Watched by a youthful ticket clerk, I make a bit of a mess filling in my destination on the warrant form. I have been using warrants for 20 years; changing them, spilling coffee on them, even forging A's signature (*in extremis*) No one (smile brilliantly here) has ever rejected one before.

"Well, I'm rejecting it, and you'll have to *buy* a ticket," barks the triumphant supervisor.

Seventy five quid! Can't make a fuss; the impatient people queueing behind me are almost certainly Grimsby voters heading home.

Arrive home to find Austin in the kitchen. He has large hammer and is crashing up and down on my lovingly restored antique pine table.

"Hello darling, what are you doing?" (or something like that), I say. He has lost his car aerial and is crafting a new one from a wire coathanger (and he wonders why he's not ministerial material!).

SATURDAY

Eric phones. Eric is Troublemaker in Chief. Sometimes a party member, sometimes not. Head honcho of the "Save Britain's Fish" campaign. He's 70 plus, rides a bicycle, wears a beret and a monocle and has absolutely all our home and office phone numbers. He phones and faxes at any hour of the day and night.

Eric is very worried. He has heard that Tony Blair is going to ban Euro-sceptics like Austin from taking a stand against EMU. Eric has just finished crafting panels for Austin's car, which scream, "Save Britain's fish. Save Britain's pound!" in 5ft-high letters. Will he be able to get away with this; or will Peter Mandelson personally appear on the 15.30 to Cleethorpes to tear them from the car? Say I'm not sure but will consult A and call back. Hang up.

Eric phones again instantly. He is also installing a loudspeaker in the car so that he can shout, "Save Britain's fish. Save Britain's pound. Vote Labour!"

What will Tony Blair have to say about this?Remember all the complaints about Eric sounding like Hitler in previous elections.Suggest panels will have stunning impact and sound is not necessary. Eric extremely cross.

SUNDAY

There is a service on St Andrew's Dock in Hull at noon to remember all the fishermen who have died at sea. The service is very moving. Hard-faced trawlermen weep as we sing, "*hear us as we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea*", and watch carnations scattered on the water float away to sea.

Afterwards I am chatting with the Hull Euro MP Peter Crampton. Another Westminster MP, Stuart Randall, comes up and starts talking to Peter. Suddenly he thrusts a hand out to me and says: "Hello, I don't believe we have ever met." Stare at him in amazement and point out I am Austin's wife and not Peter's. And that he has known me for two decades. Launch into my favourite theory that middle-aged women are, in fact, invisible and that no one ever knows who I am unless I have Austin standing by my side. Stuart says his wife feels exactly the same. Wonder if he recognises her if he sees her chatting to John Prescott?

When we get home Austin spends a couple of hours assembling all the gear he was given on the BBC *Style Challenge* programme. Dark grey Italian wool suit, grey shirt, discreet grey and white tie, and navy "City gent" overcoat. Very New Labour, very un-Austin. Ask him why. Says it's for next Wednesday morning when most of the Parliamentary Labour Party have a photo opportunity with Tony Blair.

They all have to turn up in the Shadow Cabinet room, pay five quid and get to pose with the Leader for as long as it takes to take a snap for the election leaflet.

Austin says he is planning to tell Tony about the holiday in Death Valley and see if he asks him not to go. (He wouldn't be so daft, would he?)

MONDAY

Not yet broken new year's resolution to give up trying to change Austin. Resolution strongly tested when I walk in the door from work. He is sitting on sofa asking what there is to eat, and wearing the most appalling tie I have ever seen — *Baywatch* babes rampant. Pamela Anderson just over his heart. Ignore tie. Make supper. Austin goes off to vote, and be on *Newsnight*. Small soup stain on Geena Lee Nolin.

TUESDAY

Six-thirty am. Swimming pool changing room. Smart-arse civil servant woman asks me how I can tolerate being married to man who wears ties like that? She is not joking. Tell her I wonder that myself sometimes. I am not joking.

Tie gets mention on *Yesterday in Parliament*.

Austin has made an important contribution to last night's debate suggesting Millennium celebrations should be relocated from Greenwich to Grimsby.

Tie appears again in Matthew Parris's *Times* column under "Grimsby or bust", headline.

World in Action producer rings to ask where he could buy a tie like that. Offer to post it to him, free.

WEDNESDAY

Tony Blair photo opportunity day. Austin up early assembling his *Style Challenge* kit. He amazes me by suggesting these events have to be taken seriously. Perhaps he really does believe there's a chance for him in New Labour.

Around lunch time I ring to see how it went. Cancelled. It will be rescheduled "in the future".

Well, that's good news then. A few weeks more freedom for us. They can't have a general election when a couple of

Continued on page 2

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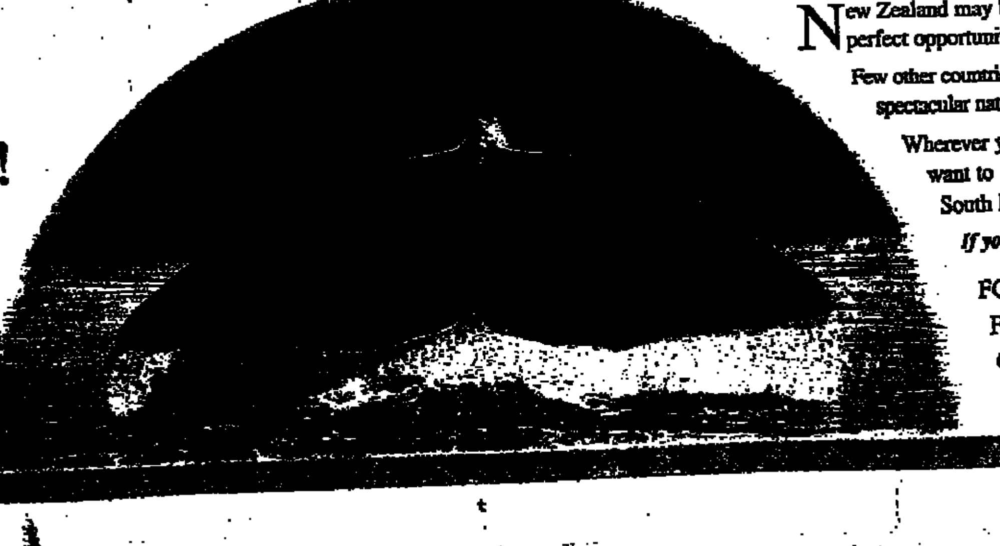

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GILES COREN

Your mission, should you *choose to accept it, is to* board a No 13 bus at Finchley Road, London NW2, obtain, by any means necessary, a ticket to take you as far as Oxford Street, and return within three hours with six bagels, a tube of Oxy-10, a fully working office-type clock housing a mono CCTV and microphone, and a camera concealed in a cigarette lighter.

If you take my advice, you will pick up *the bagels* at *Panzer's in St* John's Wood on the way back so as to get them as fresh as possible; the zit cream you can buy in Boots at Swiss Cottage. As for the surveillance equipment, well, everyone knows you can get that from Spymaster at Portman Square.

For a long time, before I started shopping there regularly on my way to work, I was intrigued by *the grey frontage of Spymaster. In* the same way that my local newsagent has "News-Mags-Chocolate-Fags" above the door, so Spymaster has "Counter Surveillance-*Survival* Equipment-Body Armour-Night Vision".

For years, though, I never went in. When I needed, say, a lightweight anti-slab jacket or a Dedal 40 Image Intensifying Rifle Scope I just had to make it myself; I *assumed that you needed some* sort of cash-and-carry card issued only to 00 agents and occasionally forged by Drax operatives.

Push open their door, which is *like* any other door on any other shopping street, and you enter another world. "What is this thing that looks like your common or garden fizzy drinks can (£15)?" you ask. And a rolling-shouldered man in his mid-20s, most unQ-like, *shakes it so that you hear the fizzy* drink gurgling inside, and then unscrews the top to reveal a secret compartment ideal for the storage of Semtex, microfilm, shark repellant (£30)...

He shows you the night vision *equipment, and, naturally, you* want to know all about the headset that you slip on to trace baddies in the dark, but he tells you that those are a bit dated now and hands you a *pocketscope* (£3,500). "*This is the* smallest second-generation night vision unit on the market. It intensifies available light by a factor of 20,000, is water-resistant *and will accept any 'C' mount* lens... Pay attention, 007!" But you cannot, because in the background there are people trying out pinhole cameras that can be disguised in a tie and calculators with hidden transmitters: "Leave it *on the table* at a board meeting and when you go to the loo you can listen to what they say while you are out of the room."

These people may have been trained in the identifying and disabling of malevolent agents, but what they know about calming paranoiac tendencies could be invisible-inked on the back of an exploding cigar: "If you think you have a problem," says their brochure, "*then you probably have.*"

To this end, you can sort yourself out with a telephone-tap packed in what looks like a travelling chess set (£1,250). All you have to do is sneak up on the home of the intended victim, cut the phone line, reconnect it using two small crocodile clips, and you're away. *Unless, of course,* said victim has purchased a scrambler (£500) or a voice changer (£70), which will make him sound like Metal Mickey and never hold up in court.

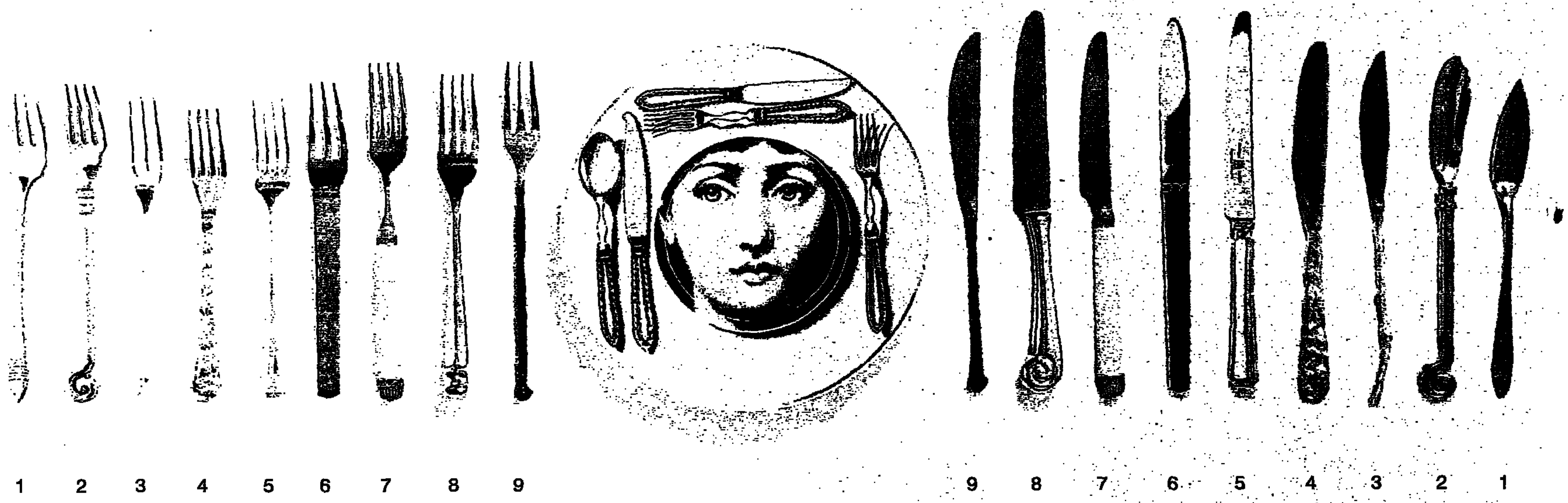
I*f you don't think you* can cope with the rigours of espionage yourself, they know a man who can: "Should you suspect that you have an information 'leak' we have a highly trained counter-team available..."

My only worry is that the man who comes to mend the leak will be more like a plumber than a double agent: a man who appears in a wet suit, peels if off to reveal a dinner jacket, and then says, "Dear, dear.. If only you'd called earlier. *Best thing* is *to* chuck it out and get a new one. Milk and two sugars if you're asking."

Much better to pick up a copy of *Sniper/Counter Sniper*, or *How to Disappear Completely*, and *DIY*. Then you will need some camou*flage* cream, a commando wire saw, some self-heating food and jungle survival pack, and you should be able to sneak off the bus with your bagels and acne remedy concealed in the Celltrack mobile phone interceptor — it is marked as a "restricted user product: law enforcement, military, and government agencies only" — but you have clearance at the highest level. Tell them we sent you.

This column will self-destruct in ten seconds...

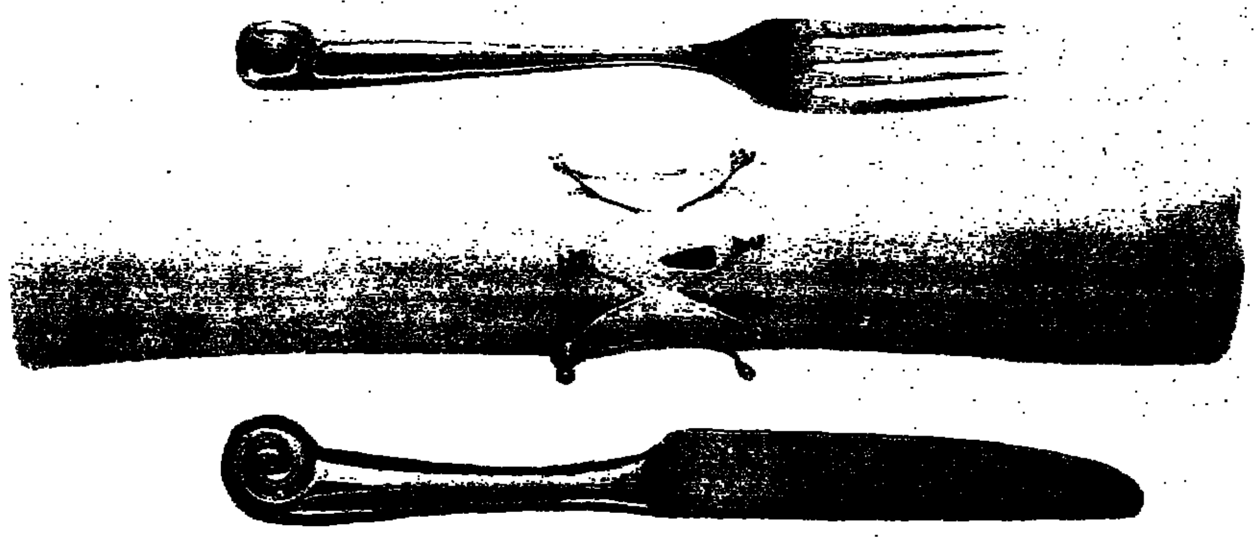
Cutting edge of designer cutlery



MAIN PICTURE: 1 *Simple fish-head stainless steel cutlery;* £3.95 for a teaspoon, £7.95 for a knife, from the Conran Shop, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 6RD (0171-589 7401). **2** Chunky cutlery with pewter handles "inspired by the new South Africa", by Carrol Boyes (range includes heart, wave and Aries designs), £26-£80, from Carrie *Bateman at Design Divine; available by mail order (0181-289 5556).* **3** Twig-handled, silver-plated and brass cutlery; £4.50 for a teaspoon, £12.50 for a knife, from the Conran Shop, as above. **4** Silver-plated cutlery with beaten design on handle, by Maryse Boxer at Chez Joseph; six-piece setting, £85, Chez Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1X *7LQ (0171-245 9493)* **5** *First made in the mid-1930s "Harley"* Sheffield stainless steel with a classic double reverse thread detail in the handle, seven-piece single place setting £56 85 (in silver-plate, £107.85), from Master Cutler, 3 Shepherd Street, Mayfair, W1Y 74N (0114-272 1504)

RIGHT: "Ammonite" stainless steel cutlery designed by Robert Welch, as before Silver Jester napkin ring, £64, by Mila Tanya Griebel (0171-328 8680). Cream damask napkin (24in), £22 each, or £130 for six, from the Irish Linen Company, 35-36 Burlington Arcade, W1 (0171-493 8949)

FOR THE true gourmet, it's not only what you eat, but what you eat it with. Fortunately, etiquette no longer dictates a vast canteen of cutlery, but there's nothing more dismal than tucking into your meal with beaten-up knives and forks. Designers are now turning their attention to cutlery. SUDI PIGOTT



MAIN PICTURE: 6 *For label-conscious diners, Hermès' new range* of stainless steel cutlery is much heavier and larger than most sets on sale; £25 for a fork, £40 for a knife, from Hermès, 179 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-823 1014). **7** Cream "Carthage" cutlery with nylon handles and engraved old-silver-look detail ends, dishwasher *safe; each piece £8.25, from Dickins & Jones At Home, 224-244* Regent Street,W1A 1DB (0171-734 7070). **8** "Ammonite" stainless steel cutlery designed by Robert Welch, a contemporary version, with hollow handles, of the traditional pistol-grip handle design popular since the mid-18th century; six seven-piece place settings, £300, *from Robert Welch Studio Shop, Lower High Street, Chipping* Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6DY; available by mail order (01386 840522). **9** Iron Age stainless steel cutlery, six-piece place setting £75, by Maryse Boxer from Chez Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1X 7LQ (0171-245 9493).

CENTREPIECE: Fornasetti-designed plate, £33.70, from Rosenthal *Studio House, 137 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 3076).*

Photographs: ***Des Jenson*** *Styling:* ***Caroline Griffiths***

JAMES BRABAZON

Cheese: the immaculate Member for Great Grimsby, right

> ❛ Austin suggests he and Tony should be photographed shaking hands. Art director says no. This will look like they've just met ❜

Continued from page 1

hundred Labour MPs haven't got a photograph of themselves taken with their leader.

FRIDAY

Austin phones me to say he is very ill. When I arrive home at our house in Halifax mid-evening, he is wrapped in a blanket on the sofa writing his Anti Europe, Anti EMU (and *no doubt soon to be banned)* election manifesto, and watching old movies on Sky. "What's for tea?" he asks between bouts of coughs and sneezes.

The kitchen is in chaos. Austin has been shopping, something which only happens when an election looms and he wants everyone to know how involved in the community he is. (You'll never *guess who I saw in the* supermarket today...)

SATURDAY

Surprisingly, Austin still alive, *but refusing to take phone* calls, particularly from Eric. Fax arrives from Eric. He absolutely must try fitting the panels on the car today.

I set out for Eric's. He lives behind Blundell Park, the football stadium. The panels are made of wood. They are about 10ft long and 4ft high. They are painted bright scarlet and weigh a ton. The idea is to use them as a superstructure. A ferocious system of *metal clamps will attach them* to the car roof. Eric and I stumble into the road with one and hoist it aloft. The message is in bright yellow:

AUSTIN SAYS:
SAVE BRITAIN'S FISH
SAVE BRITAIN'S POUND!

Passing Grimsby Town fans gawp in disbelief. Eric mutters and adjusts clamps. He asks me to get into the car, *open the sunroof, and stand* on the driver's seat to test whether Austin will be visible above the superstructure. Believe it or not, I do this, and *can just see over the top if I* stand on my toes.

MONDAY

Back to London and the big*gest day in Austin's calendar.* The annual Lords and Commons photographic exhibition. Mrs Bottomley has been invited to open the show. Like all of us, she has pre-election tension and giggles a lot. She speaks warmly of her talented colleagues and is presented *with a video stills camera by* the Kodak sponsor. Then she says mysteriously: "Many people here will know that I am married to a shopaholic, so *this will be very useful.*" Slightly hysterical laughter from those in the know.

I am puzzled. Does this mean that she will take stills of all husband Peter's purchases to provide evidence for the Parliamentary tax inspectors *in Cardiff?*

WEDNESDAY

Austin is over the moon. *The Independent* has put one of *his photos from the exhibition* on its front page. He positively skips out of the door on his way to his long-awaited photo op with The Leader. He is going to tell Tony about our holidays plans. He is going to explain just why he needs to tell the truth about EMU in Grimsby, and why he won't be able to endorse the party line on Europe in his campaign literature.

High noon in the Shadow Cabinet room. Tony Blair is ready and waiting. The Member for Great Grimsby, immaculate in his *Style Challenge* outfit, burbles hu*morously that* The Leader's suit is a bit creased. Leader consults suit doctors. Should he change? They think not.

Eager to get something right, A suggests he and Tony should be photographed shaking hands. Art director says no. This will look like they've just met. Nervous laughs all round. Austin opens his mouth to speak, but no words will come.

The Leader smiles his big Blair smile and holds out his hand. Three handshakes, three frames of film, and it's all over.

There is now a long queue of expectant MPs laden down with props from their constituencies, brought to add a "local" feel to their election literature. Hugh Bayley clutches a glossy brochure from York council. Perhaps he is going to ask The Leader to bless it?

FRIDAY

Because the election is so close, family life is on hold. I head *straight* for Grimsby on Fridays. I arrive in the mayor's parlour, Cleethorpes, for the local authority dinner in honour of its two MPs, Austin and the *Tory Michael Brown.* Everyone knows this will be the last official event before the election, so there's an end-of-term atmosphere.

Lisa, the photographer from the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph*, arrives and takes a shot of us all standing in a line and grinning dementedly.

As soon as the speeches are over we belt off to Leeds for a *This is Your Life* on TV presenter Richard Whiteley, one of our oldest friends. Call *from* Eric *on mobile.* What did Tony Blair say about the panels for the car? Say I am not sure A and The Leader got round to this topic in their far-reaching discussion, but will consult and get back to him.

Get home at *midnight* and in a moment of madness offer to drive Austin, who looks exhausted, back to Grimsby for his Saturday surgery in six *hours' time.* He perks up and says that while I'm there I can visit Eric and sort something out about the panels.

After surgery we head for Immingham for a photo opportunity for Shona McIsaac, the Labour candidate for Cleethorpes. Lisa from the *Telegraph* (does she never get any time off?) arranges the group, including Austin, all dressed in sweaters and weekend trousers. Shona, the perfect Labour woman candidate in a smart, fitted orange jacket, short skirt and high-heeled shoes, perches nervously smiling on the edge of *frame. Wonder how many* votes this will land?

I mooch off to sit in the car, and get shouted at by Austin when he returns. "This *is the pre-election period you* know. People might think we've had a row if you bugger off like that."

Dear John Major,

Let's have the election very soon. Please. They need me back at the office...

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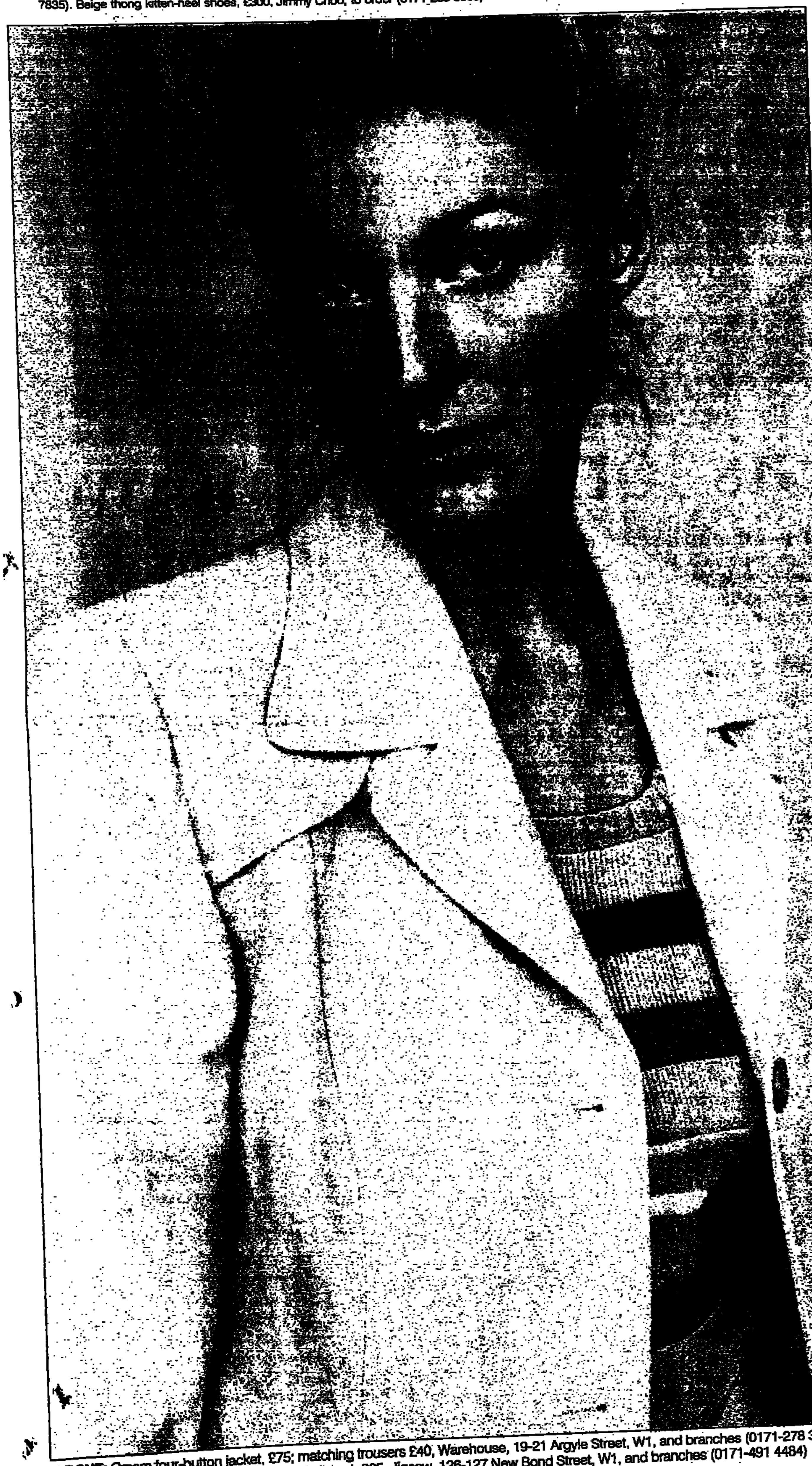
OLYMPIA – MARCH 7/8/9

Evening Standard
HOMEBUYER
SHOW

A suitable girl

RIGHT: Navy three-button jacket, £105; matching trousers, £43, Sisley, selected Benetton branches (0161-929 9259). Blue stretch boob tube, £25, No Such Soul, Hype DF (0171-937 7835). Beige thong kitten-heel shoes, £300, Jimmy Choo, to order (0171-235 6008)

Take John Galliano's advice: wear trouser suits for spring. They're sharp, sassy, versatile — the perfect antidote to those feminine florals



ABOVE: Cream four-button jacket, £75; matching trousers £40, Warehouse, 19-21 Argyle Street, W1, and branches (0171-278 3491). Blue, choc and beige stripe cotton knit vest, £65, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, W1, and branches (0171-491 4484)

ABOVE: Pale blue crepe double-breasted jacket, £160; matching trousers, £85, Karen Millen, branches nationwide (01622 664032)

RIGHT: Brown moc-croc jacket, £79; matching trousers, £45, Kookai, 123 High Street Kensington, London W8 (0171-937 4411) Snakeskin sandals, £300, Jimmy Choo, made to order (0171-235 6008)

All photographs: **William Davies**
Hair/make-up: **Alex Babsky**
Styling: **Amandip Uppal**

The flipside to the ultra-feminine floral and ruffle looks around at the moment are the more sober masculine styles of women's trouser suits. Sharp and sassy, they are ideal for work or play and can be adapted for eveningwear.

At work, simple, good quality T-shirts or sharp, crisp-collared blouses can be worn beneath the jacket, but do not wear cravats or ties. These were big on the catwalks this season but avoid them. As the Savile Row tailor Richard James puts it: "Any woman wearing a tie looks silly — even the Princess of Wales."

At formal events, such as a company cocktail party, Christian Dior's maverick designer John Galliano is all for a trouser suit, saying: "A bias-cut suit can look both formal and elegant." When asked about his preference for skirts or trousers, he said: "Trouser suits are the modern choice for spring."

A quick change from stiff shirt to a lace camisole, and out of your practical loafers into simple kitten-heels, can transform a day suit into evening effortlessly.

On more casual occasions, the look can be toned down with a simple, stripey, fine-knit singlet, a bra-top or a boob-tube. The more adventurous could opt to wear nothing underneath a well-lined, high-cut jacket or low-cut top.

A hint of lace on the edge of a scooped top can lift an outfit if peeking from beneath the jacket in a contrast colour — light blue under navy; beige under chocolate.

Fine crepes and wools can soften an outfit, and will keep you cool. New technology textiles, such as breathable synthetic mixes and high-sheen plastics, are youthful and add a modern edge to even the most classic of styles.

When it comes to jacket buttonings, there are no rules. Double-breasted is back but cut in softer lines, three and two-button high fastenings cover well, and a new one-button look is simple and clean.

The most important part of the suit, the trousers, tend to be slim-legged this year and, when worn with a longline jacket, are flattering to most figures. Slight bootleg kick flares can be found but will soon date. Look out for suits that come with a matching skirt for extra versatility and longer wearability.

HEATH BROWN

TOP: Denim plastic cork, £75, Red or Dead, 1 Sloane Street, SW1, (0171-235 1335).
LEFT: Blue, mesh wedge, £125, Donna Karan, 19 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 3100)

THREE OF A KIND

WITH their Seventies image, wedge-heeled shoes are making a comeback with new versions for the Nineties. These three are among the best. H.B.

ABOVE: Black suede/patent wedge, £39.99, Office, 57 Neal Street, WC2, (mail order, 0181-838 4447)

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **My carrots and parsnips grow 2in-3in, then. divide in up to six ways. What's the remedy?** — E. Gore-Squires, Sudbury, Suffolk.

A Heavy or compacted or even waterlogged soils are the cause of this. Culitivate the soil well, adding a lot of organic matter, but not nitrogen-rich composts which can make matters worse.

Q **Two years ago I had my garden relaid as an "easy-care" scree garden with a membrane under the stone. Since then, horse tails have pushed through a large area. I have used Roundup to kill it, but more keeps appearing. How do I eradicate the weed?** — Mrs L. Cregar, Watford, Hertfordshire.

A Geotextile membranes, designed to let water through but discourage weeds, work well but cannot suppress tough, pernicious weeds such as horse tail. Scree gardens, rockeries or any other new plantings, with or without a membrane, should never be attempted before all pernicious weeds have been eradicated. You have no choice now but to persist with the weed-killing until the site is clean. If you knew the horse tail was present, and told your contractor so, and were advised that the membrane would suppress it, you may have a case against him. See what he says.

Q **Many garden centres have only a limited range of dahlia tubers and no list. Can you recommend specialist dahlia growers who have a full list?** — R.C. Agombar, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A I am tempted to say that things are improving at garden centres on the dahlia front. As the plant becomes fashionable again the range of cultivars for sale in pre-packs grows, too, though they are mostly in the dwarf, bedding end of the range. You can even buy black and scarlet 'Bishop of Llandaff' off the peg now. For a dahlia nursery, try Halls of Heddon, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 0JS (01661 852445), or Oscroft's Dahlias, Sprotborough Road, Doncaster DN5 8BE (01302 785026). When looking for suppliers of a particular kind of plant, from dahlias and delphiniums, air plants and alpines, to topiary and wild flowers, a useful source of infromation is *The Gardener's Yearbook*, published by Macmillan for the Royal Horticultural Society at £14.99, from bookshops.

Q **My 3ft-tall, 60-year-old yew hedge is dying on one side, possibly because it is close to a building and is deprived of sun. I plan to cut it down low and start again from the bottom up. The trunks are thick and healthy, but I am not sure exactly how low to cut them, and when. To help, I shall feed it with dried blood and compost, unless you can think of anything better.** — Sir Clive Rose, Sudbury, Suffolk.

A I would be reluctant to cut down strong, healthy trunks of that age. And there is no real need to. Instead, cut off all the back of the hedge to leave the bare vertical trunks on that one side. The cutting will be invisible from the front, but will let enough light in to regenerate a new back. Your feeding recipe is ideal, except that you should water copiously. Could it be that drought in the rain shadow of a wall is part of the hedge's problem?

Q **My 9ft-beech hedge was planted 20 years ago as a windbreak and to subdivide the garden. It has been that height for half its life. Would it be possible to reduce its height by, say, 5ft — even over several years — without endangering it?** — A.J. Easterbrook, Bromley, Kent.

A You can certainly cut it down to 4ft. Do it this month, and cut to a height which allows for some top regrowth before reaching the new final height. It will be a shock, but not fatal. Feed and water it well. If you wish to reduce the width too, give it a couple of years to recover before reducing the sides, one at a time. Such large cuts into the central leader of a tree can lead to long-term rots which reduce the overall life of the hedge. But it is still worth doing.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

VINCE BEVAN

The window of Geoff Hewitt's flat is a mass of well-chosen colour and shapes, thanks to potted plants that stand on an outer windowsill and can be replaced as they die off

Potty ideas for your window

Are you a Mayfair minimalist or the cottage garden type? Even in dull winter months your window box can say a lot about you, says **Jane Owen**

What does your window box say about you? Are you a stylish Mayfair type, with ivy, clipped box balls and white cyclamen decorating the front of your house? A local worthy, sporting a selection of dwarf conifers and heathers? A devil-may-care sort, whose window box resounds with clashing pansies and cyclamen. An architectural minimalist, with stark structural pyramid-shaped box trees? Or is your style sweet and cosy with a deft mixture of blues and yellows of early daffs, hyacinths, primulas and *Iris reticulata*? Or, again, the window box announcing: "I'm very busy but managed to find these primulas at the corner shop?"

All the styles have their merits, because they strut their stuff at this time of year when gardens can look dismal. A splash of colour at the front of a house entertains the eye and cheers the soul.

The winter display that impressed me when I lived in London was on the windowsill of a flat opposite. Instead of a window box, there were a series of flower pots of various sizes, none of them fancy, growing plants rarely associated with window plantings.

In January I met the man responsible, Geoff Hewitt, a garden designer. (His real name is James Hewitt, but he prefers Geoff for obvious reasons.) His windowsill displays the kind of unusual plants that his clients refuse to accept; they want something elegant and restrained. The display is to restraint what a Russian vine is to slow growth.

Each of his plants lives in its own pot: an exotic rosette of spikey, lance-shaped leaves from *Agave americana*; the more architectural drama from the greeny-yellow leaves *Phormium* 'Yellow Wave'; lower-level architectural shapes from a house leek, sempervivum: a splash of colour from the cabbage 'Stockleys Red'; sunny buttercup-like flowers of the winter aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*; reddish-green foliage of wood spurge, *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae*; snowdrops; beautifully cupped, green flowers of *Helleborus viridus*; lavender; cheery yellow of the dwarf *Narcissus* 'Tête-à-tête'; a clump of the hairy, trailing *Thymus serpyllum*; and a pale rosette of hairy leaves made by a biennial verbascum, which will later throw up a great fury spike dotted with yellow flowers, albeit much shorter, because of its pot-bound roots, than the normal 8ft-10ft plant it would otherwise achieve.

This is the kind of planting many people find too adventurous. Others worry about maintenance. But keeping classically good-looking displays is straight forward: the bay, box, ivy, green-and-white look that can manage for two or three months without any interference.

Mr Hewitt's selection of plants need more tending and the pots have to be moved about as each plant reaches its climax; as one plant passes its best it can be replaced in an instant. When part of a window box display goes over it has to be dug into, disrupting neighbouring plants which have to be closely planted for the best effect.

"I don't hesitate to move the pots about frequently and I take out any plant as soon as it is past its best. What I aim for at all times is a structure, body and interest. But you have to keep the pots simple or they start to compete with the plants," says Mr Hewitt who came to Britain in 1987 after two years on a flower farm in his native Tasmania and worked for a while at the London nursery Cliftons, and then as a gardener at a country house before setting up his garden design firm.

He warns against using small pots or mixing the planting in each pot. For his own pots, Mr Hewitt uses multi-purpose compost, replaced after each season.

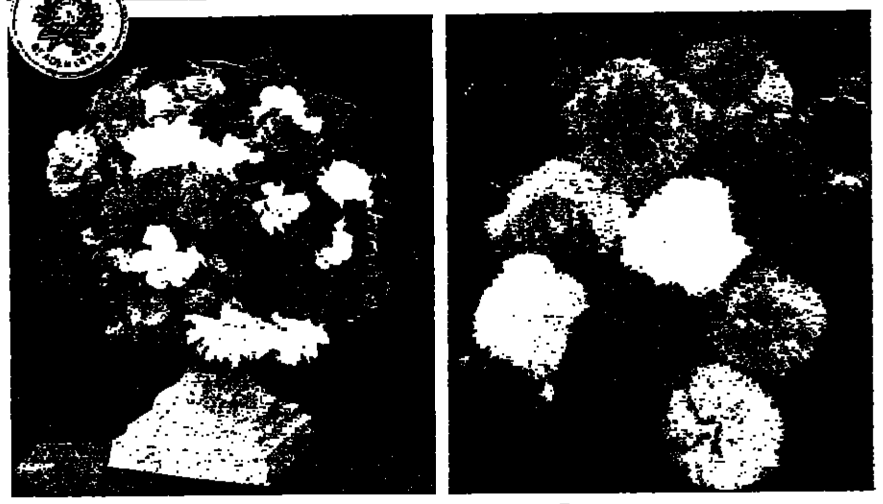
Using flower pots for windowsills is an art mastered on much of continental Europe. Think of the scent from basil plants sitting in Italian kitchen windows, where the other favourite, geranium, loll hotly against the window surround. Think of the great cascades of trailing pink and red and white geraniums from pots on French windowsills. Here, at this time of year, pot displays demand more imagination.

Every plant can be given its own soil mix so that acid lovers can mingle happily with acid haters, and the only thing every container needs is water-retaining granules for the summer, which can be bought from any garden centre, and some appropriate slow-release fertiliser. Nutrients leach out faster in containers than in beds and, now that 6X organic fertiliser comes in non-smelly pellet form, a few of the pellets of this on the pots of hungry plants, such as pansies, will help sustain flowering and ward off disease and pest attack.

● *Geoff Hewitt, 0171-609 7837.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- **Encourage dormant fuchsias and pelargoniums into growth with a sparing application of water. Plant dry begonia tubers in cool, moist seed compost, to initiate root growth.**
- **Feed apples, pears and plum trees with nitrogen and potash fertiliser. Prune stone fruit trees as growth begins.**
- **Plant Jerusalem artichokes 6in deep. Greengrocer's tubers are perfectly good but, for less knobbly tubers and easier peeling, plant a reliable named variety from a horticultural supplier.**
- **Shallots may be planted now.**
- **Check bedding wallflowers for wind rock, and ensure that they are all firm in the ground.**
- **Divide early-leafing perennials, such as pulmonarias and brunnera.**



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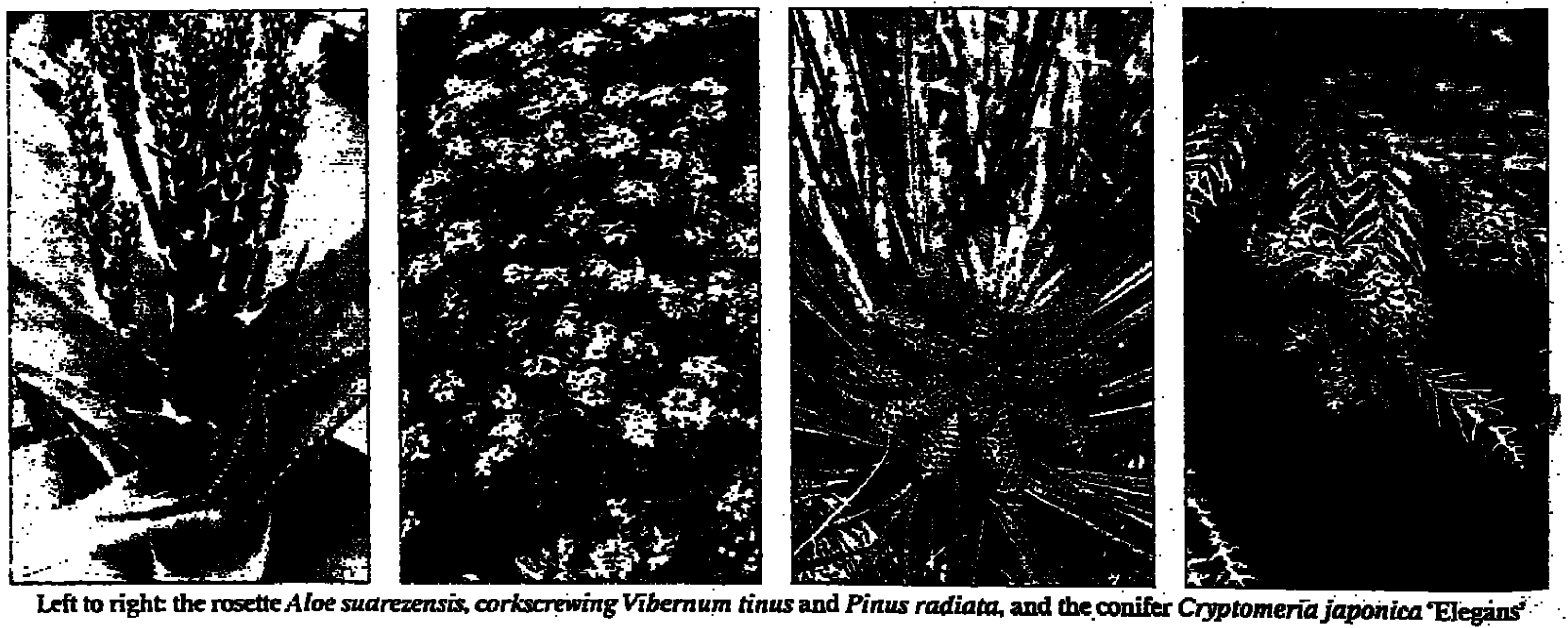
Buying plants after a frozen winter needs care. **Stephen Anderton** tells how to spot wrong 'uns



Left to right: the rosette *Aloe suarezensis*, corkscrewing *Vibernum tinus* and *Pinus radiata*, and the conifer *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans'

Dead giveaways for sick plants

The best place for the roots of any plant when it is bitterly cold is underground. But how do you tell when a plant has suffered damage from being frozen in its pot? And how can you tell if it is dead?

During last month's cold weather I visited a garden centre in Cambridge, where I was pleased to see netting erected over the banks of potted plants outdoors to keep the worst of the cold off them, as well as the snow.

In bitter weather, pots are best grouped close together — pot-thick, as nurserymen call it — to reduce the chill to their roots. And, the nearer to the ground the better: plants on any kind on a raised bench are going to get colder than those on the ground.

Sometimes it is hard to tell if a plant is alive or dead when you buy it. Conifers, whose foliage has been browned, should be avoided. The chances are that they have been burned by the cold or wind when unable to draw moisture from a frozen rootball. Conifers are not always quick to die, and a plant may only become brown all over, sometimes in a few days, when the weather begins to warm up in spring. Yew, especially, has a habit of saving its death rattle until April or May.

Bronzing is another matter. There are conifers, such as the feathery *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans', whose foliage turns a plummy purple or bronze in cold weather. This is entirely natural and has a measure of attraction. Other conifers, including yew, may show purpling of the leading shoots. But it is brownness which is to be avoided.

When buying an evergreen, it's wise to turn it out of its pot to check the roots. The tips should be white and healthy, and have a good grip on the compost. Plants whose roots have spiralled at the bottom of the pot have been potted for too long anyway. Buy them if you must, but they will require teasing out of the corkscrew and spreading out in the planting hole. Sometimes this is impossible, and root pruning is the only answer.

Corkscrewing of roots is less important on some evergreens than others. Broad-leafed evergreens, such as *Viburnum tinus* and laurel, have fibrous roots and a dome-shaped canopy, and can overcome a congested rootball by themselves in time. But in a fast-growing shelter tree, such as *Pinus radiata*, corkscrew roots should be avoided at all costs. They need efficient horizontal roots to hold themselves up and take the force of the wind. Staking a pine with a corkscrewed root is only putting off the evil day when it blows down or lurches over.

When buying herbaceous plants after a freeze, look for swelling buds in the crown of the plant, and be suspicious of plants in leaf but in waterlogged compost; they ought to be using that water if the plant is alive.

Sour, stinking compost is a sure sign of dead roots.

Rosette plants, with a single central root like a dandelion, are prone to rot away in wet and cold. Sometimes the rosette of foliage remains firm when the roots have rotted off at the neck. So pull gently to see if the rosette has a firm hold in the pot. If it is going to lift off like a mob-cap, it is better to know before you buy and get it home.

Grow your own oasis

Palm trees can do surprisingly well in British weather, says **Stephen Anderton**

Surprisingly perhaps, there are palm trees we can grow perfectly well in Britain. Just a few will thrive and offer us that extraordinary, flamboyant foliage.

Botanically, palms are nearer to orchids and lilies than any of our native trees. There are three thousand kinds of palm, and they grow in all kinds of habitats.

Picture television footage of hurricane Floosie ripping through the Caribbean, coconut palms bent almost double in the torrents of wind and rain. Then picture the fan palm Trachycarpus in a Himalayan woodland at 8,000 feet, covered in snow from November to March. This has to be the one we are interested in.

Then picture Martin Gibbons, palm collector, in a gold-mining ghost town, deep in the Sudan and the Nubian desert, finding the Argun palm, whose fruits were buried in ancient Egyptian tombs, and which has not been recorded in the wild since 1907. This man is determined we should enjoy hardy palms more in Britain, and I have to agree.

Palms have become a way of life for Martin Gibbons. After school he spent three years working in Australia, and visited Singapore Botanic Garden, which is known for the range of its different palms.

He came home, found jobs in a supermarket then department store sales, was made redundant, and then thought "I should be growing palms". So he did. And sold them. The house was full of them — on the stairs, in the bath, the window ledges, everywhere. He has had his present business, The Palm Centre, in East Sheen not far from Kew Gardens, for eight years. It is a thriving if small concern, but some things don't change. Every inch of the premises is palm-girt. Indoor palms line the stairs to the office, and the old kitchen serves as a potting shed. At the back are polytunnels of rampant palmery.

"I don't grow any plants I don't like. I have tree ferns, and bananas — oh and cycads and bamboos. And palms. Mostly palms." The trouble with palms — like any big group of closely related plants — is that together in rows, as young plants, they start to look the same. Except perhaps that they obviously divide into fan palms and feather palms, by the leaf shape.

But they are all individuals to Martin Gibbons. Last year he spent four months travelling the world looking at palms, collecting seed, and taking photographs. His first book, *Identifying Palms*, has sold in astonishing numbers and has even been translated into Spanish. His customers, as well as home gardeners, include hotels, a zoo, aviaries, swimming pools and a Gulf State ruler. Coals to Newcastle, maybe, but it proves he is a specialist. But only half of what he sells is indoor palms; the other half goes into British gardens.

We talked about that hardiest of palms, the Chusan palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, which I had grown successfully in Northumberland. Mine was 16ft tall, and jammed into a small raised bed in a sheltered southeast-facing corner. Gibbons emphasised the need for warmth and shelter, so those huge fan shaped leaves are not ragged by wind. "But the root system is actually quite small. They are very easy to transplant."

I asked how fast they grow (I had only known mine as an oldie). "As much as a foot a year if they are well fed," said Gibbons, "but they grow for several years before they start to develop a trunk. The crown builds up for 6-8 years in the ground, then it starts to shoot up. Buying a plant which is already a couple of feet high will save you the first 4-5 years' waiting. They need plenty of food and water to really get them moving." That makes sense. If a palm can only have one bud, it might as well be a big one.

He also recommends tying up the fronds of palms in bitterly cold or snowy periods. "Just pull up the leaves and bundle them together with string, and wrap them with sacking or polythene. Ice in the crown does palms most harm. As soon as the weather improves, the wraps can come off again." And that makes sense too: if a plant only has one bud and you lose it, then that plant has had it.

And the best hardy palms for a British garden? *Trachycarpus fortunei*, the Chusan palm, came first. It's the toughest. Second was *Trachycarpus wagnerianus*, which has stiffer fans is less prone to wind damage, and is good in less sheltered gardens. The leaves are deeply cut, like a peacock's tail.

Third came *Trachycarpus sikkimensis*. It does not have the hairy trunk of the Chusan palm, but it has bigger leaves and is extremely fast growing. It requires wind shelter to do well.

Fourth is the Mediterranean fan palm, *Chamaerops humilis*. This, unusually, is a bushy species, and will make a bundle of stems up to 6-8ft in old age. You can clean these up to make a multi-stemmed plant if you like to see the trunks. Martin Gibbons recommends the "blue" form, 'Cerifera', from the high Atlas mountains of Morocco, which has a steely grey, almost blue-white tinge to the foliage.

And lastly? "There would have to be one feather palm, as all the others are fans." It was *Butia capitata*, the jelly (as in American jam) palm, slow to grow, but full of southern promise.

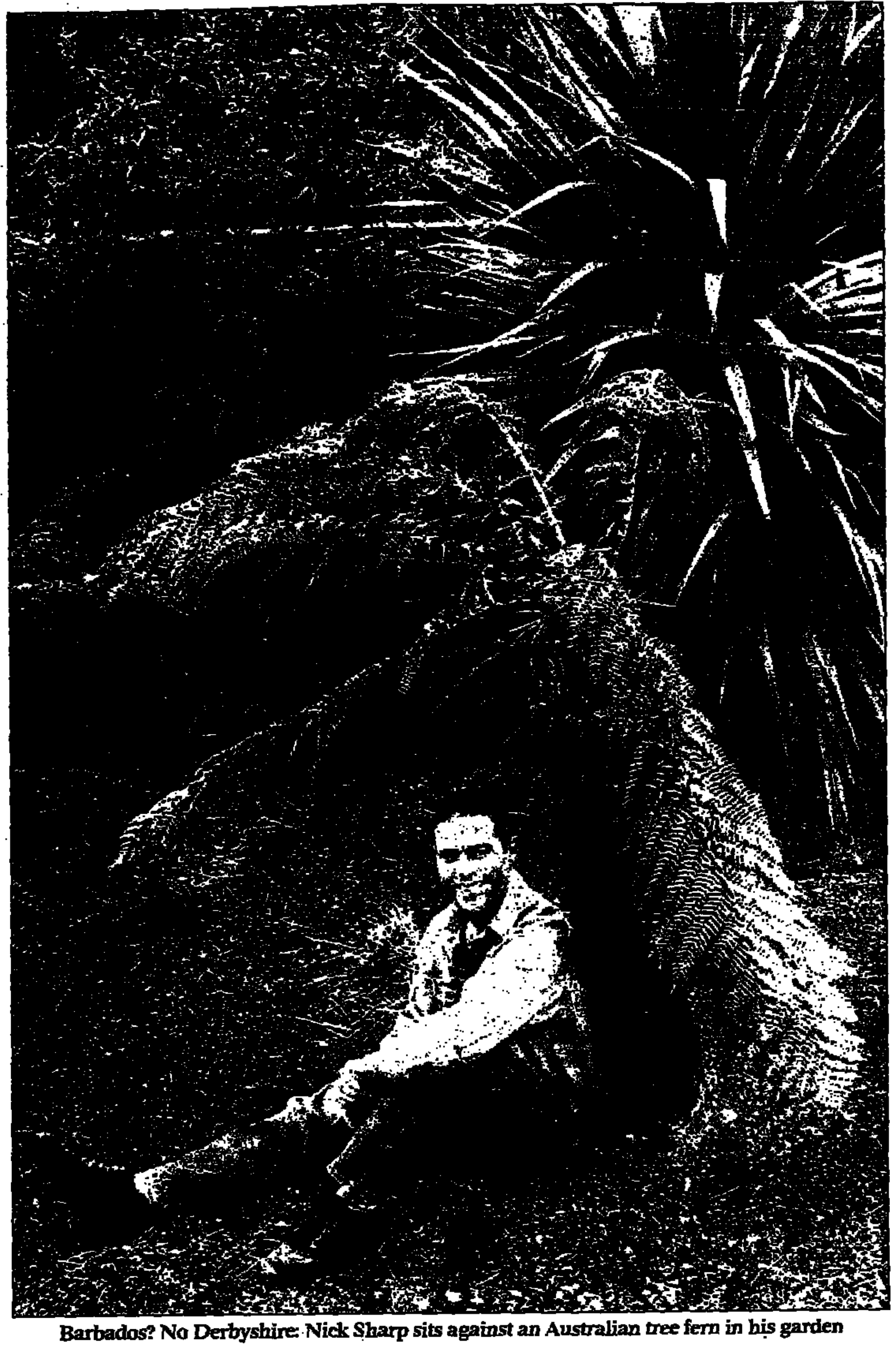
Plant a few if you have space. Plant a jungle, as Nick Sharp has done in his sunny but windy garden near Derby. He has five Chusan palms, two Chamaerops, a Butia, and is even trying the Brazilian palm, *Trithrinax acanthocoma*, which is another fan palm. "A few more years, and it will be jungle," he says.

PALM OFFER

Trachycarpus fortunei is on offer at £19.95

- As a special offer to readers of *The Times*, the hardy palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* (pictured left) which survives the cold well is available ready for planting outside now, at 60-70cm tall, for the reduced price of £19.95 (normally £24.95) plus £4.50 p&p. From Palm Centre at the address below.
- The European Palm Society, with a membership of 600 and an annual subscription of £15 is run from The Palm Centre, 563 Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14 7ED (0181-876-3223. Fax: 0181-876 6888

MICHAEL POWELL



Barbados? No Derbyshire: Nick Sharp sits against an Australian tree fern in his garden

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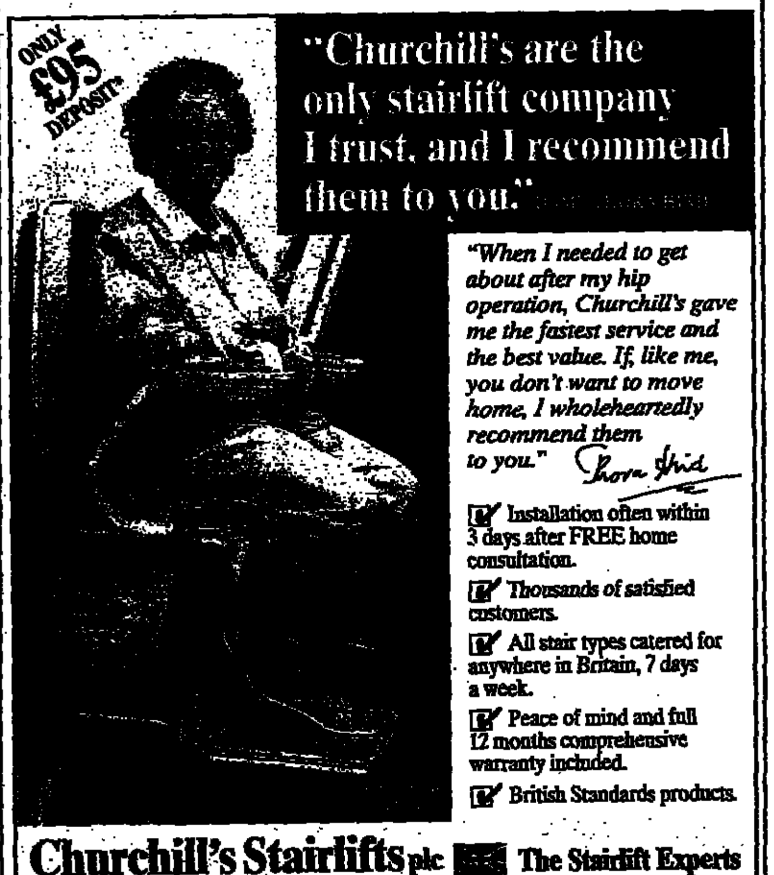

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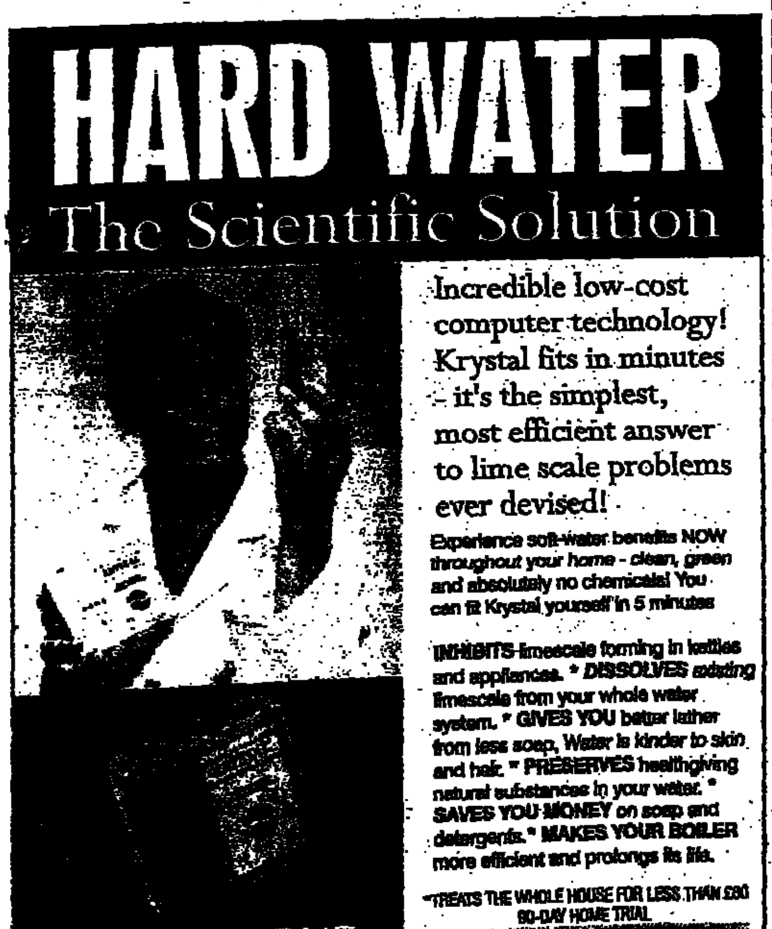

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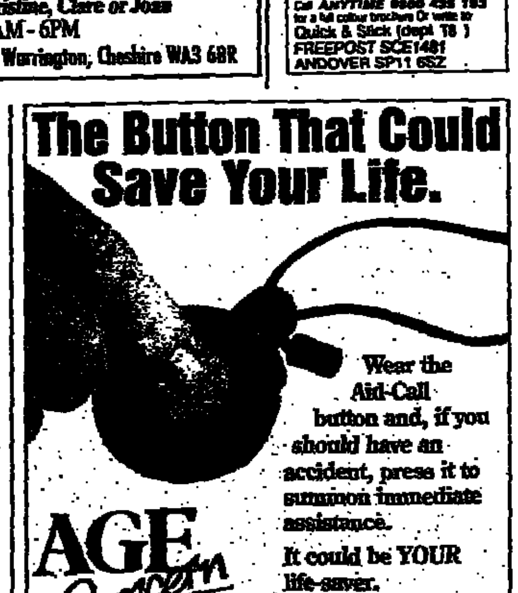

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Corsham Court, by Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton

NATIONAL TRUST

The gardens at Chirk Castle, near Wrexham in north Wales, are renowned at this time of the year for the snowdrops on its terrace and in the large woodland garden

Castle with a carpet of snowdrops

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ **Corsham Court, Corsham, Wiltshire (01249 701610).**

On A4, four miles west of Chippenham. Open Jan-Mar, Sat-Sun, 2-4.30pm; Apr-Oct, daily except Mon (open Bank hol). 11am-5.30pm. £2, children £1.

This is a garden of note, having been created by Capability Brown and his successor, Humphrey Repton. Corsham was also one of the projects where Brown was responsible for the house: he carried out extensive alterations and additions to the Elizabethan original, which survives facing the entrance courtyard. Brown's work was followed by further architectural changes, but the impressive picture gallery he designed continues to display one of England's foremost picture collections. Set in parkland to the east of the house is the lake that Brown planned, but never executed, and Repton carried out. To one side, however, is Corsham's gem, the Gothic bath-house that Brown designed and built, and which ranks among the elite of English garden buildings.

■ **Chirk Castle gardens, Chirk, Wrexham, north Wales (01691 777701).**

Off A5 west of Chirk, eight miles north of Oswestry. Open today and tomorrow, noon-4pm (last admission 3.30pm). Then Mar 26-Sept 28, daily except Mon and Tues (open Bank hols). Oct, Sat-Sun, 11am-6pm (last admission 4.30pm). Feb weekends £1, children 50p. Later, £2.20, children £1.10.

The great Marches castle, perched on a hill, was clearly built for defence rather than comfort. It is only since the 18th century that its surroundings have been softened with parkland and gardens, whose most impressive decorative feature greets you at the entrance — a superb wrought iron screen and gates made in the 18th century by the Davies blacksmith brothers. From the lawn to one side of the castle, an opening in great, old yew hedges beckons to a long, grassy walk which is the heart of the garden. At the far end, a terrace presents spectacular views over the English border. At this time of year, the feature is the number of snowdrops here and in the large woodland garden.

■ **Wolterton Park, Erpingham, Norfolk (01263 584175).**

Two miles north of Aylsham, via A140. Open daily all year, 9am-5pm. Car park £2.

Wolterton, on a crisp winter or early spring day, exemplifies the spaciousness of the 18th-century parks in Norfolk, cradle of England's agricultural revolution at that time. It is a place to walk and think back to the 1730s, when the elegant house was built by Horatio Walpole whose brother, Sir Robert, had recently completed work at Houghton Hall across the county. The present Lord Walpole is carrying out restoration. A ruined church tower provides a focal point for walks through the park, as well as an attractive note that would have certainly met the approval of Wolterton's original owner. Magnificent spreading oak trees add natural scale to the enormous park, towards which the house faces over a suitably extensive lake. The garden close to the house is open on selected days in summer (telephone for details), but Lord Walpole's main home nearby, Mannington Hall, is even more worthy of a summer visit for its outstanding collection of roses.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

Wolterton Park, Erpingham, has fine oaks and an impressive lake

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Pye Corner's traditional frontage hides interior flights of fancy

The house at Pye Corner

The mullioned windows of this Cotswold home suggest a country idyll but it's not all chintz inside

Driving through the Cotswold village of Broadway, even the most seasoned nomad should feel a *sense of homecoming, even if* the "home" in question is one of childhood fancy, Joanna Trollope, *car ads and Sunday* night television murder mysteries.

Once named the "showcase village of England", Broadway boasts the usual table-mat scenes: golden stone, leaded windows, rambling *hills and* peaceful, walled gardens.

The Worcestershire village is best known by the older generation as the home of the late car-crazy parliamentarian Sir Gerald Nabarro, and by younger couples for the Lygon Arms Hotel: the *perfect venue for weekend breaks* and discreet affairs.

At first sight, the House at Pye Corner *conforms to this idyll*, transporting you to a fictional past where small boys wear horn-rimmed spectacles, scrump for apples and eat steaming pies; a time when village teashops with jangly doors serve buns from doily-lined cake stands, and humble country folk hold hands and sing carols around the tree.

Pye Corner sits on the edge of the village, on what is thought to be the original Broadway. Believed to *date from the 17th and late 18th* century, the house is approached by a sweeping driveway leading to *a courtyard and side entrance.*

Peering through the stone-mullioned windows from outside, welcoming wood fires burn in the grates, casting a wonderful orange light on chamfered and stopped beams. Once inside, heavy oak doors scream to be hid behind, and cold quarry tiles insist that you remember your slippers.

The previous owner, the former managing director of Endsleigh Insurance, died last year. He had *definite ideas about restoration and* redecoration, and on closer inspection his personal touches break *with the chocolate-box idyll.*

Pye Corner is about as far from an urban interior design as you can go, crammed full of idiosyncracies (cat engravings on the inglenook, an antique four-poster positioned *next to a 1970s laminated table).*

It is fair to say that many of the previous owner's flights of fancy are aesthetic no-nos. Walking into the music room from the traditionally beamed hall is like discovering Top Shop in the basement of Harvey Nichols. *Restored by* Christopher Boulter, muralist to the stars, painted panels tell the story of Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*. A painterly slide show charts the life *of Helen of Troy, from* The Invocation to Venus and The Seduction through to The Judgement. The *smudged faces of women with the* vital statistics of outsized Sindy dolls smile wearily from the walls. *On the painted ceiling unfairly* well-endowed cherubs wink as gilt-heavy mirrors reflect the lavish *trompe d'oeil*. The spectacle is enough to make the most dedicated voyeur reach for the Artex.

More in keeping is the fine working kitchen along the hall with traditional terracotta tiled flooring. A gas-fired Aga provides focus, *warmth* and *the promise of hotpots* and rice pudding. The previous owner was a compulsive pickler and the pantry is piled high with pots and bell jars ready to preserve *fruit and vegetables from* the garden. The breakfast room has built-in antique cabinets for ample *storage and the dining room is* spacious and smart with polished wood floors and an inglenook fireplace.

The drawing room, at the back of the house, has wall timbers, a built-in window seat and a french door to the terrace which looks out over the garden. An open stone fireplace carries a plaster mould of its maker (a local builder who has entered village lore). His full face, pipe and flat cap jut out from the stone canopy.

Upstairs there are six bedrooms and three bathrooms. The master bedroom has been recently redecorated. The wallpaper and pea-*green paintwork was not to my* taste, but it is a good size, with beautiful views of the orchard and *the rolling Cotswold hills.*

A smaller, darker bedroom at the back of the house has a minstrel's gallery, accessible only by ladder: the first place to check when playing hide-and-seek.

Pye Corner has staggering potential. The spacious attics in the eaves cry out to be made into studios, workshops or teenagers' bedrooms. The stables and outbuildings have lain idle for years. To the side of the house lie empty greenhouses and an intriguing wood store which looks like a hybrid mix of Canadian log cabin and well-built Wendy house.

The two-and-a-half-acre garden is a mishmash of traditional Cots*wold and oriental fantasy*. Well-kept lawns at the front hint that the gardens have been lovingly re*stored to their former glory*, with bursting flower beds and finely pruned topiary. Yet a half-finished balustrade cuts through the green at the back, signifying the start of the ambitious Japanese-style sunken garden, which reminded me of something Norris McWhirter might have knocked up, complete with ornamental water plants, *bridge and fountain.*

At the back a productive vegetable and flower garden with a peach arch, fruit canes, strawberry, asparagus and vegetable beds.

The heated swimming pool is well secluded, perfect for weekend parties. Change in the summer*house, bring out the sun-loungers*, shake up some large Martinis and duck and dive in the natural spring *water, pumped up from the well.*

On the way home, I thought about the dovecote twinkling in the winter sun and developed an urge to load up my imaginary Volvo with family and friends, return to *Pye Corner* with gloves and apron and start pruning.

ALEX O'CONNELL

● Agents: Hamptons in Broadway (01386 852205).

DEB JENSON

The chocolate-box image is dispensed with in the music room, where murals tell the story of Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* and cherubs adorn the ceiling. Above: the hallway

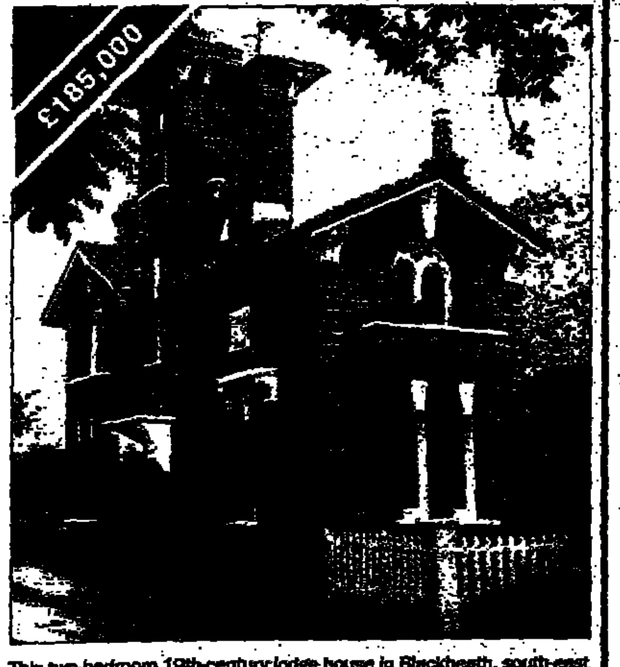
HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Pye House Corner, Broadway

- **Price:** £700,000
- **Shopping:** Felicity Kendal it, with greens in the vegetable *garden and fruit in the* orchard, or visit the local farm shop for pickled beetroot, separated yoghurt and warm *eggs. Tuesday is market day* in Moreton-in-Marsh, Cheltenham or Stratford to satisfy urban needs.
- **Travel:** Main line rail service from Moreton-in-Marsh (eight miles) to London taking 1½ hours. There is a local *taxi company in the village.*

Entertainment: Horse-racing at Cheltenham and Worcester, sip brandy at *North Cotswolds hunt meets*, polo at Cirencester Park and golf at Broadway. Theatres at Stratford, *Cheltenham and* Oxford.

HOMESWAP



This two-bedroom 19th-century lodge house in Blackheath, south-east London, can be yours for £185,000.
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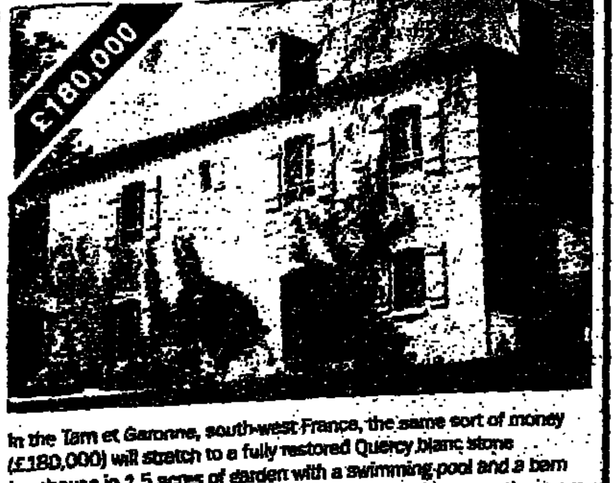
For slightly less (£179,000) you could buy Bag End, a charming 17th-century four-bedroom detached stone cottage with two acres of garden and paddocks, in Gilling *East, north of York*. Agents Savills, 01904 620731



In the Tarn et Garonne, south-west France, the same sort of money (£180,000) will stretch to a fully restored Quercy blanc stone farmhouse in 1.5 acres of garden with a swimming pool and a barn for conversion. The six-bedroom, three-bathroom, four-reception room house comes fully furnished and equipped for 12 people, with beautiful views over open countryside.
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CHERYL TAYLOR

Retro living in Seventies heaven

Angie Smith enjoys being in a time warp — her flat is a museum of Biba memorabilia, down to the coffee mugs

Entering Angie Smith's flat in Bethnal Green is a bit like stepping into a *film set for The Avengers* with a few props from *George and Mildred*. Angie is tall and slim *with jet-black hair, and usually* wears heavy black eye make-up and striking, original Biba clothes.

"My work is not particularly creative so I tend to take out my artistic tendencies on my flat," says Angie. The late Sixties and early Seventies were the best times of my life. This was a really affluent period, the time for entertaining friends and when *Playboy* was a big influence. It was a decade of go-go girls, Kubrik, sports cars and Cointreau — the "me" generation. My favourite year was 1970 and I am happy to live it all the time."

Her collection began when she was 15. The main inspiration was her father, who was a dustman in a wealthy area at the time when punk had just taken hold.

The Sixties and Seventies look had become very unfashionable and Angie's father regularly brought home Seventies lamps, artefacts, records and pointed bras on the "special dustcart". Over the years she has acquired one of the largest personal collections of Biba artefacts and clothes in the country and hires them out to film companies.

A few years ago it was fairly easy to find *Biba products* and other Seventies decor cheaply in markets and second-hand shops. Now a lot of the pieces, such as the tall, *curvy Carlton* Ware coffee sets and the brightly coloured shattered Perspex coasters and lamp bases have become collectable and expensive.

Charity shops and car boot sales are still a good source for Seventies style, and although it has become more popular, it is still possible to pick up block print curtains, swirly wallpaper and distinctive furniture from that era.

Angie has devoted a lot of her time to the design of her flat. "I have created an envi*ronment that I am proud of. It* is very personal as I have thought hard about every ob*ject and every piece of carpet.*

"Nowadays, people don't seem to think about textures or look at a piece of furniture in isolation, but tend to go for an overall look from the pages of an interiors magazine. Too many people in this country have become scared of colour and have hint-of-tint walls with tiny bits of colour such as bright red coffee mugs. It is a bit tricky to match scary colours such as purples and reds as they need to have the same tone, but it is great when you achieve the look you want. I have tried to create a different feel for each room — I like each room to say 'hello' to me."

> 'Too many people are scared of colour and have hint-of-tint walls'

The overall look is heavily researched and Angie watches period films and reads many books on decorating and collecting Seventies style. She feels it is important to find books that have photos of a house being lived in rather than just showing pieces of furniture. Old copies of *House and Garden* (available from specialist magazine shops) have proved useful for showing a Seventies house in context. *Most houses in the* Seventies would still have had pieces from the Sixties and even the Fifties *as people did* not go out and buy a complete new range of furniture. The sitting room achieves the young, push-button, modern *look of the day with plenty of* chrome and glass. The walls are painted beige with tobacco and orange *stripes and are* decorated with beaten-copper pictures.

The curtains have a bold print of brown and black swirls, and a swinging cane "egg" chair hangs from the *ceiling. In the corner is Angie's* favourite piece of furniture, a knee-high, orange cylindrical cocktail cabinet. It has port*holes for the bottles* and can be wheeled around at a party with the top being used to hold glasses and canapés.

Through the red, glass-bead door you enter the kitchen with its solid, curved 1953 fridge. Much of the rest of the room pays homage to the Biba food hall. There are mugs, *trays and tins, a large array of* jars that once held everything *from chickpeas to bicarbonate* of soda, all in the distinctive black and gold that Biba used *for its logo and motifs. On the* walls are the labels from the Biba quiche boxes (one from *each of the ten varieties).*

The bedroom is designed to have the *sensuous*, velvety feel of a boudoir. The walls are covered in purple hessian, which has not *proved* practical as the cat loves to climb the walls and tends to shred it.

The dressing table is completely covered with pots of Biba lotions, shampoo and make-up, including silver face *and body paint* which was fashionable at the time.

The cupboards are jammed with original Biba outfits (248 to be exact). These range from heavy satin nightdresses and hot pants to a flimsy, empire-*line wedding dress and a fake* fur leopard-skin trouser suit. *Floppy hats with flowers cover* the walls and cupboards. The only room which has yet to *receive the treatment is the* bathroom. This has proved difficult because bathroom *equipment and tiles tend* to break and get thrown away when they are taken out of a house. Angie is, however, currently negotiating for a purple bathroom suite.

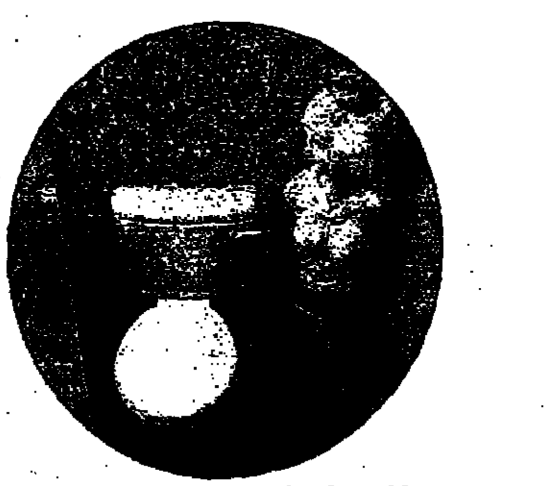
Angie sadly concedes that *she* has almost completed the design of her flat.

"The cupboards are over*flowing* with wallpaper and curtains. I suppose my dream would be to win the lottery and carry on with my collection. I *would buy* a big Georgian house in Holland Park or Notting Hill and paint it purple on the outside with a turquoise door and window sills."

JOYCE BLAKE

MARTIN BEDDALL

"My favourite year was 1970 and I'm happy to live it all the time," says Angie, who started collecting when she was 15



The smallest room in the *house* is a loo with attitude

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The Chinese art of creating harmonious homes may be all the rage but it is important to choose advisers carefully

Beware feng shui phooey

David and Alice wanted a baby. They consulted the doctor but they did not see any harm in consulting a feng shui practitioner too. He came, he saw, he put up a windchime. The couple, now £350 poorer, waited for their lives to become richer.

Nothing happened, however, so they called on Tony Holdsworth of the Midlands Feng Shui Centre in Ettington near Stratford-upon-Avon. He said: "I went with a Chinese master and the windchime was in the wrong place and it was reducing energy when it needed increasing. There was nothing other than a workshop in the area of creativity, and no improvements or suggestions had been made. The real problem was an underground burst sewage pipe in that area. That has been fixed but there is no news yet."

This couple were victims of feng shui phooey and they are not the only ones who have paid good money for bad advice in this trendiest of disciplines. The West has fallen in love with the Chinese art which focuses on the way buildings and interior design affect the well-being and prosperity of the inhabitants. In Britain the trend for creating harmonious homes has gone from New Age fringe to mainstream, with even the likes of Wimpey handing out free guides on the subject.

But this month feng shui is growing up in Britain with two new schools that aim to provide standards and structure for a field that so far has been dominated by the feel-good factor. At last, time is running out for the charlatans and their phooey.

"This kind of course is a must," says Gina Lazenby of the Feng Shui Network in London. "At first there was just a growing awareness of what feng shui is. You know, the 'Gosh, I've got my toilet in the wealth corner and all my money is being flushed away' type of thing. But the awareness is way beyond that now and we need people who know what they are doing and who are professional."

This is easier said than done. Chinese masters select their pupils, who can train for decades before becoming masters. "They would learn throughout their lifetime but cannot practise until they are almost drawing a pension," Ms Lazenby says.

Britain has the opposite problem. The number of feng shui consultants here has leapfrogged from a handful several years ago to up to 50 or more. Some are not experienced enough to be practising and it is instructive that the Feng Shui Network only has ten consultants on its books that it will recommend. Tony Holdsworth is even more selective, believing that only a few practitioners here have the expertise to practise.

The reason behind this difference of opinion lies in the nature of feng shui and how some have adapted it to Western ways. Mr Holdsworth is a purist, believing that the only proper feng shui is the Oriental kind based on the use of the Chinese compass or *lo pan*. His course, which he calls "vocational", is made up of nine weekend sessions at the Midlands centre over a year and costs £998. An advanced course is being planned for next year.

Its main lecturer is consultant Derek Walters, an authority on Chinese culture and the author of many books including *The Feng Shui Handbook*. "There is a real need for this. I teach a similar course in Germany and have advanced students there," Mr Walters says. "They show me examples of their practical work and they know more about feng shui than others who are charging and working as consultants in Britain."

Like many in Britain, Ms Lazenby stumbled on feng shui by accident when she took a course from William Spear, the American guru of "intuitive feng shui". She set up the network and, in the past few years, has experienced the boom in the subject first hand with the phones "going crazy". Some 10,000 calls later, she decided the time was right to use her contacts to set up a "professional" course.

Ms Lazenby says feng shui is not a purely Oriental practice. "I see it not as a Chinese thing but as something that is universal. I want to see how we can use it in England, in Scotland, in our semi-detached houses, in our cottages. The *lo pan* compass takes a long time to learn. But there is another way of doing it which is based on intuition. Neither is wrong or right."

Her course, to be held in central London, includes teachers from Australia and America and covers such diverse subjects as electromagnetic stress, feng shui in the kitchen, and children.

"It has to have real value and not be just a few cheap courses put together. I have to balance credibility, professionalism and affordability," she says.

The course involves 50 classes over two to three years. It will cost from £5,000 to £7,000 and graduates may become eligible to go on to the network's consultant registry.

"When this field becomes regulated — and it will be one day — then we will need information in filing cabinets and case studies to show we have done our homework," Ms Lazenby says.

Any consultant worth his or her £150 a session should bring a wealth of experience to your home. They should be knowledgeable about Chinese astrology, geopathic stress and ask lots of questions about the history of your house and your life. Ideally, they will bring you into the process and be available afterwards for follow-up.

"If you have a question, ring them up," Ms Lazenby says. "It's in nobody's interest for something to be half-done." Unfortunately, some, like David and Alice, have learnt that the hard way.

ANN TRENEMAN

● *Details of Gina Lazenby's course are available from the Feng Shui Network International, PO Box 2133, London W1A 1RL (0171-935 8935).*

● *For information on Tony Holdsworth's programme, contact the School of Feng Shui, Vocational Training Course, 34 Banbury Road, Ettington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7SU (01789 740116).*

FACT FILE

A FENG SHUI consultant will charge from £150 for a small flat to £250 to £350 for the average home, depending on size and location. This is not cheap and arranging a consultation should be approached in the same spirit that you would hire a specialist lawyer or accountant.

■ Most feng shui practitioners are found by word of mouth. Another option would be to ring the Feng Shui Network which can refer you to a consultant.

■ Ask how long your consultant has been practising and how they were trained. Ask for references and follow them up.

■ At no point should you feel as if the wool is being pulled over your eyes. Gina Lazenby of the Feng Shui Network advises that no one should hire a practitioner they do not feel right about.

■ Chanting and robes may be fine, but feng shui consultants should also show an awareness of electromagnetic stress, geopathic stress (what is going on underneath your house) and look at the street layout and the outside of your house.

■ The practitioner should ask about you and your life (including your birth date) and also show an interest in the history of the house and who lived there before.

■ Some consultants use a Chinese compass or *lo pan* and some do not. If you want a traditional Oriental practitioner, employ someone who uses a *lo pan*. If you are not sure, ask the practitioner about it. Do not let anyone blind you with the science of it.

■ If the practitioner gives you a list of changes, ask about them. Involving yourself in the process gives you more understanding of what is going on.

■ Lots of people expect feng shui to solve all their problems overnight but in many cases changes are not made all at once.

■ If you make the changes and nothing happens or things get worse, ring your practitioner. Gina Lazenby believes most problems stem from poor communication. The practitioner should be happy to discuss the situation and to make further suggestions.

Derek Walters, a feng shui expert, rearranges his garden

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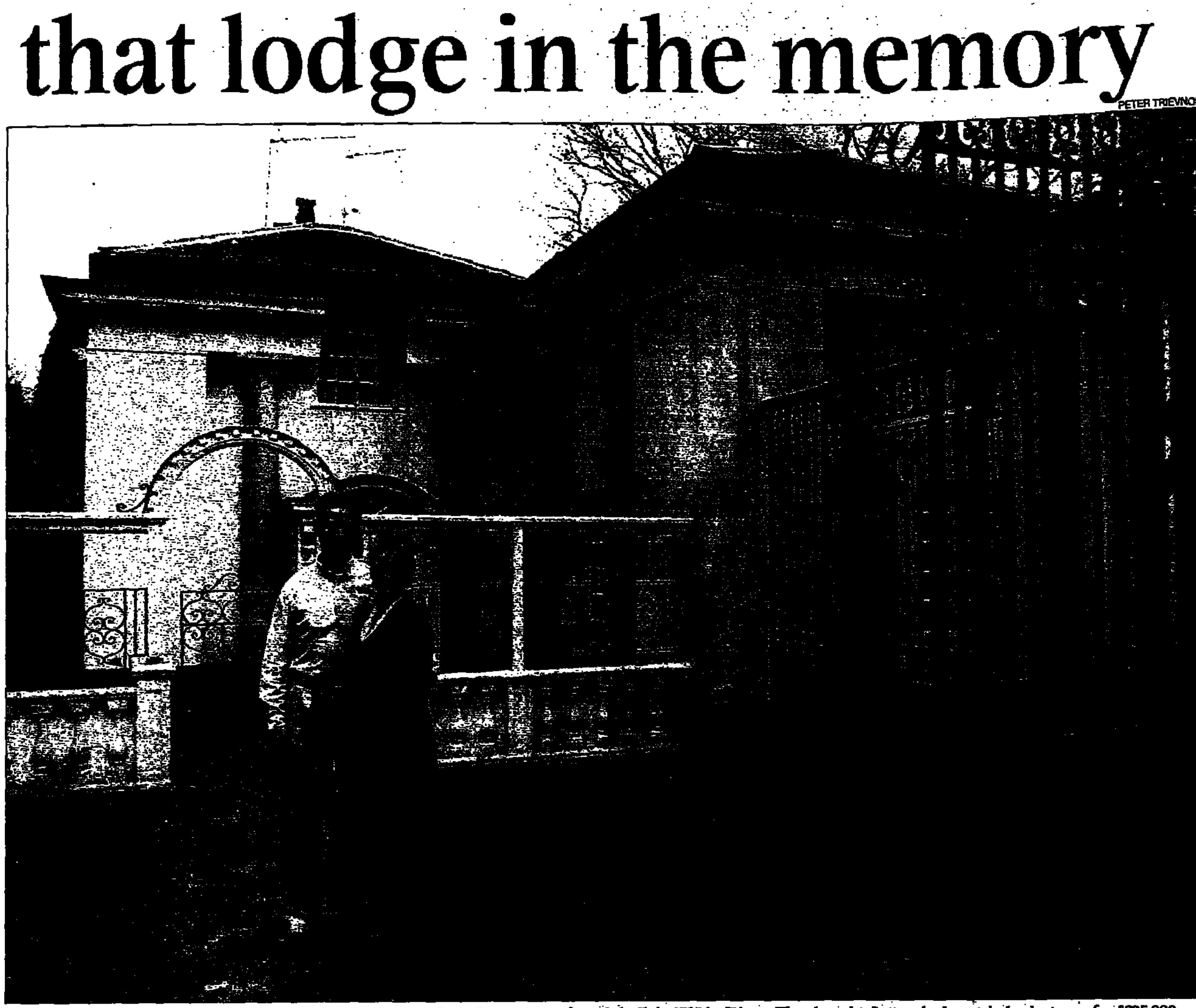
Houses that lodge in the memory

Gatehouses may be small, but these former servants' quarters are commanding a big audience


PETER TRIEVNOR

Ian and Emma Rickwood outside The Gatehouse in Ottershaw, Surrey, one of a pair built in 1795 by Wyatt. They bought the two-bedroom lodge last year for £235,000

Lodge houses, once described as being "in mortal peril", are now being snapped up by affluent buyers prepared to pay over the odds for quirky individuality.

It is easy to be beguiled by the little buildings standing sentry at the entrances to the parks of great houses. They were usually designed by the architect of the great house itself as a foretaste of the splendour to be found at the end of the drive. They could be described as baby houses and, like baby animals, their smallness is part of their appeal.

But that very smallness can be a problem for a home, as can their usual proximity to a main road. Some lodges have a major drawback: they are divided by the drive, the living room being on one side, the bedroom on the other.

Architectural historian Dr Tim Mowl, of Bristol, who has co-written a book about lodges, says the earliest examples were built after 1710, when fashion turned from formal gardens to walled parks. These required gates, usually at some distance from the house. Improved road surfaces led to more coaches, which called for gate keepers, who needed housing. In the 18th century, landlords rarely considered their servants' comfort and many early lodges are cramped inside. In Victorian times owners became more philanthropic and many 19th-century lodges make lovely homes.

> 'They are like baby houses – their smallness is all part of their appeal'

Yet as recently as the 1980s many of these houses were decaying, either because the landlord had no wish to sell them for refurbishment, or because house-hunters overlooked them. In 1988, Dr Mowl estimated that about one-fifth of the 10,000 to 15,000 lodges in Britain were derelict.

"Lodges, as a distinguished and enlivening building type, are in mortal peril," he said and speculated: "The reason for their decay has to be the memory — in a class-conscious society — of servile gatewatchers bobbing curtsies and tugging forelocks as the carriages rolled by."

Hopefully, this dismal picture has changed. Surrey estate agent Curchods says lodges command a premium of 10 per cent because of their originality and rarity.

"They always attract a great deal of interest and we can quite easily target the most likely buyers," Andrew Dewar, a joint senior partner, says. "These properties tend to attract professional couples who want to enjoy their freedom to live in something idiosyncratic. They draw people who are not conformist.

"There is usually more than one purchaser champing at the bit to buy lodges. They want the quirks and will pay a premium," he says.

Last November Curchods marketed three lodges in Surrey. Two have already sold for their asking price.

The Gatehouse near Ottershaw is one of a pair built in 1795 by Wyatt. It has two bedrooms, a drawing room, dining room and conservatory, and sold for £235,000.

Emma Rickwood, aged 27, managing director of A restaurant company, and her husband Ian, 29, a management consultant, moved into The Gatehouse in January. "Every time I drive home I think, do I really live here?" said Mrs Rickwood. "I suppose we did pay a bit of a premium for it. You could buy a nice four-bedroom property in this area for the same price but there are plenty of couples like us who want a small amount of space but want something with a bit of character."

East Lodge at Pains Hill, Cobham, also has two bedrooms and two reception rooms and is still for sale at £235,000. Curchods also sold a one-bedroom lodge in Weybridge for £145,000.

Elsewhere in the country, some stunning lodges are still on the market, the grandest being the Gate House at Englefield Green, Surrey, which, situated on the edge of Windsor Great Park, has royal neighbours and is only a mile away from the polo ground at Smith's Lawn. Just 500 yards from the Gate House is Royal Lodge, the Queen Mother's home.

The red-brick Grade II listed eight-bedroom house is held on licence from the Crown Estate — the annual fee is £2,500, which includes the right to use a private access into the main park. It has been in the same family for 45 years and needs renovating, which explains the asking price from Knight Frank of £360,000.

A more typical small lodge house being marketed by Black Horse Agencies is West Gate Lodge at Flimwell Grange, Flimwell, East Sussex, which has two bedrooms, a small dining room and a compact sitting room for sale for £110,000. The smallest on offer, through Savills' York office, is East Gate Lodge at Grimston Park, North Yorkshire, which is a cute one-up one-down building. The sitting-room is just 10ft by 9ft 4in, its kitchen is 10ft 4in by 7ft 10in, both being on the lower ground floor, while its only bedroom, on the ground floor, is a compact 10ft 8in by 7ft 6in. The house has a small garden and a parking area, and the asking price is £65,000.

East Gate Lodge near Tadcaster is on sale for £65,000

Taskers Arch at Anna Valley, near Andover, Hampshire, is probably the most unusual lodge available at the moment. The arch bridges two lodge houses built around 1834 by Robert Tasker, founder of a local iron works. Beneath the arch was an iron gate made in the foundry. One lodge was used as a chapel on Sundays and as a school on weekdays for the children of ironworkers. The schoolmistress and her husband lived in the other lodge, and had the use of the arch room, which now provides a third bedroom for the west side of the lodge, which is now for sale at £99,950.

The unusual building features in the Test Valley Tapestry, which hangs in the Test Valley Council building, Andover, and the marketing agent, John D. Wood, says it "has great charm and character and is extremely versatile".

But there are also modern lodges for sale, which are purpose-built with all mod cons. On the market at the moment is one of two lodge houses either side of the gate at Cavendish Lodge, Bath, a block of 20 flats that is being built by Beaufort Homes in the form of a large classical mansion. One lodge has already been sold but the other, a two-bedroom show home, is still available for £260,000.

"It's a very interesting modern adaptation of an historic building type," Dr Mowl says after viewing the lodge. "Old lodges are usually much smaller than these, but if you stand back and view them in relation to the main building, the scale is very good.

"The detailing on them is excellent, for example they have a carved swag. The rubble-stone walling against smooth ashlar blocks gives them a rustic feel. It's a nice contrast which you don't get on ordinary classical buildings in Bath, and it makes the building look 20th-century rather than old."

CHRISTINE WEBB

- Trumpet at a Distant Gate *by Dr Timothy Mowl and Brian Earnshaw, published by Waterstones, is out of print but available from libraries.*
- *Black Horse Agencies, 01580 753181. Curchods, 01932 860999. John D. Wood, 01962 863131. Savills, 01904 620731. Knight Frank, 01344 24732.*
- *Cavendish Lodge flats and lodge house are available through Savills, 01225 444622.*

PROPERTY NEWS

■ **A QUARTER of all new residential developments in central London have been converted from office buildings, according to a report by Savills. At the beginning of this year, 95 per cent of available units were built on sites which were formerly in non-residential use, compared with 84 per cent in 1996.**

■ **INVESTORS are snapping up properties to let outside London to catch the wave of rising house prices as it filters out of the capital, reports Knight Frank. Almost 10 per cent of country house buyers in the Home Counties were buying properties over £500,000 last year for investment purposes.**

■ **BUYERS and sellers who agree a house sale should be legally bound to pay a deposit, suggests the National Association of Estate Agents. This may not put paid to gazumping, says the association, but would alleviate financial loss.**

■ **A THREE-bedroom clock house in the conversion of a 17th-century coach house in the grounds of Chippenham Hall near Bury St Edmunds is for sale through Bedfords with a guide price of £155,000. Future owners are bound to wind the clock, but receive a £4 reduction in maintenance charges each week. Bedfords 01284 769999.**

PROPERTY

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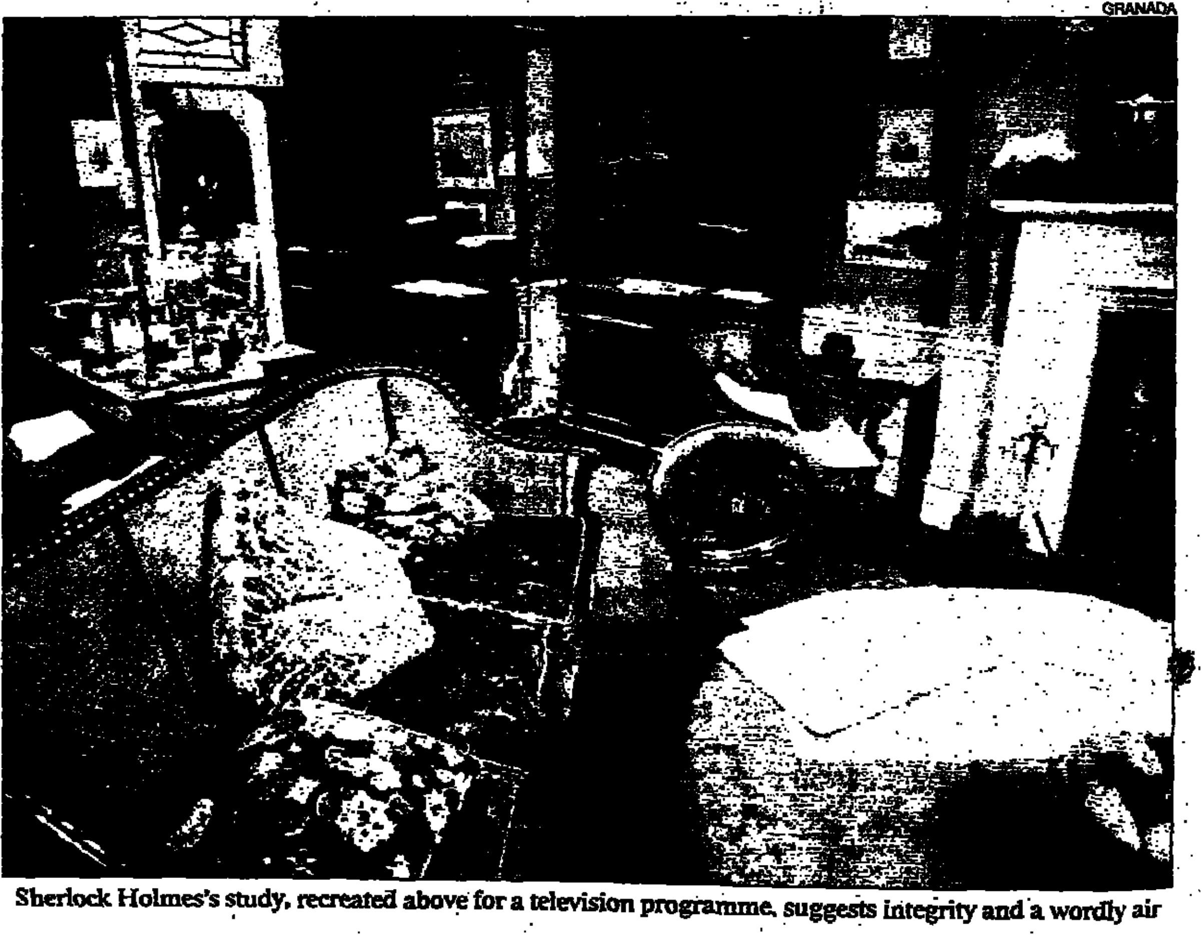
CLASSIFIED PROPERTY CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

SELLING POINTS

STUDIES


GRANADA

Sherlock Holmes's study, recreated above for a television programme, suggests integrity and a wordly air

Laura Ashley started from one. So did Richard Branson. Today, 22 per cent of people in Britain work from home for some of their working week, according to the latest report from the Henley Centre for Forecasting.

With changing work patterns, increasing self-employment and the growth of telecommuting, this number is forecast to increase to 30 per cent by the end of the century. For more and more house buyers, a space to work is an important consideration.

Certainly the word "study" on property details carries an attractive, worldly air. It suggests solidity, integrity; a book-lined, Sherlock Holmes fug of pipe smoke sizzling with rapier intellect. Unfortunately, few houses have the luxury of a spare room — unless they extend into the attic or loft space — that can be turned into a dedicated study.

The solution is to think laterally. For example, parents could turn the master bedroom into a shared children's room, take a smaller room themselves and use the smallest room as a study. The contents of the box room could be re-distributed (or thrown out) and the space turned into a cubby-hole study. Even replacing the spare-room bed with a sofa-bed creates a virtual dedicated study.

If none of these options are feasible, be creative with the existing space. "Multifunctional" is the key word. Target rooms or areas that are infrequently used (such as the dining room, conservatory, spare bedroom) or in which nobody lingers (hall, landing, main bedroom) and you may be surprised how easy it is to find an under-used corner. Slipping a desk and shelving in the space under the stairs is a classic example of multi-functionalism.

The four basic requirements for a working area are good lighting, work surface, storage and (a degree of) privacy. Ideally, you want an area away from family traffic. Aim to confine the working area to one corner or side. Otherwise, you will have to clear away everything each time the room is needed for its other purpose; a disincentive to work in the first place and not good for family harmony.

Do not overlook the space under the bedroom window or that corner alcove on the landing. However, unless you thrive on chaos and interruptions, kitchen tables are not a good idea — no matter that it did no harm to Mrs Ashley.

Working areas can look messy and ugly, particularly if computers and faxes are flashing their ugly rears from the corner of an elegant living room. Simple screens, even an artful arrangement of plants, can cover their modesty. Equally, if the rest of the room distracts from your work — a double bed in the bedroom, for example — arrange your working area to look away from the room. (Alternatively, get a hard and unsexy-looking futon.)

Working areas need not look like the office. There is no hard and fast rule that says you cannot keep folders and files in a mahogany tallboy or antique armoire.

A desk can be an old pine table, a length of shelving fitted into an alcove or a hinged surface that folds away against the wall, perhaps sited under a windowsill to give you the added bonus of a view.

Bookshelves can be built around and over doorways, while open shelves of unattractive boxfiles and directories can be hidden behind panelled doors or a simple pull-down blind. With careful planning, and a good carpenter, you can hide an entire workstation behind fitted or folding doors. A sliding, pull-out shelf can hold a computer keyboard and double as a working surface. Variable width shelves and drawers can accommodate books, files, stationery, even a fax and a printer.

Close the doors and the bedroom/dining/living room reverts to normal. Where working space is tight or windowless, lighting is important. If there is no room for a desk lamp, consider recessed ceiling lighting or a concealed strip-light fitted to an overhead shelf.

If space really defeats you, there is always the garden shed. It did no harm to Roald Dahl.

HELEN PICKLES

Unless we're careful, sheep will start rounding up shepherds, pheasants will refuse to fly, and pigs will succeed in doing so

That's enough brains, thank you

DOWN TO **EARTH**

PAUL HEINEY

Somewhere on a laboratory shelf in America sits a drug which could devastate country life as we know it. It has been developed with those good intentions with which we all know the road to hell to be paved. May I suggest what that hell will be like?

This group of drugs offers hope in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. No problem there. But a report in this newspaper last week said, "scientists believe that these memory pills will also lift normal performance to super-normal levels". And here is the chilling bit: "Animals given the drugs have shown remarkable improvements in learning." Aaargh! What *have* they done? Have they fed this stuff to Mickey Mouse and turned *him* into Mastermind Mouse? I think we should be told, for the implications are dire.

It is worth remembering that the balance of power which exists between us and animals, seen at its most raw in the countryside and on the farm, exists only because, when it comes to knowing how many beans make five, we get it right more times than they do. We are cleverer, and so in the end we win. For example, there is an easy and foolproof way to move a pig from A to B. The farmer starts at A, alongside the pig, with a brimming bucket of feed in his hand, and walks slowly towards B, where he puts the bucket on the ground. It is beyond the realms of possibility that the pig will not *eventually* shift its stubborn self towards B. If B was the trailer in which you wanted to catch it, so much the better. It will always work because the pig, though brighter than some animals, has no understanding of patience, and how that of the farmer's will ultimately evaporate if kept waiting too long. All it understands are the pleasures of dining.

So imagine what country life would be like if animals and birds get hold of this superdrug from some waste source or other, develop superior mental powers and start to think things through.

I can foresee a time when, instead of responding to the scare tactics of beaters at shoots, the pheasants would stubbornly sit on the ground and say boo to the guns. They would be entirely safe. Horse riding would cease to be a pleasure, because the new-found wits of the animal would enable it to work out that if it did not fancy trotting the lanes that day, it did not have to. This would result in a new breed of servile owner taking their mounts cups of morning tea to get them in a compliant mood. Shepherding would come to an end, because sheep would soon learn that they could run rings around men with crooks even more than they do now. On second thoughts, scrub that; no one is suggesting a drug so powerful as to give sheep the powers of reasoning; pigs might fly first — which, of course, they could if they put their new, souped-up minds to it. Most frightening is the thought that the animals' superbrains might decide that, if we enjoy a roast slice of them, might they not enjoy a roast slice of us? If this sounds like something from the realms of science fiction, I refer you to the events in the House of Commons last Monday, where the Minister of Agriculture was censured for the Government's handling of the BSE crisis.

It was a good row, but we are none the wiser. If it eventually comes to be proven that this disease was created by defying the cow's natural instincts not to eat meat, where does that leave the brainpower of the innocent cow? Higher or lower on the scale than those who drew up the regulations, allowed the loophole, did very little about it for a very long time, and then put healthy animals to the torch for "political reasons"?

Clearly, compared with the present and previous ministers of agriculture, the cow has already got the edge when it comes to brainpower. After all, given a choice, no cow would ever choose to eat the brains of a dead sheep.

I am indebted to the *New Farmer and Grower* magazine — required reading for those who doubt organic is the way forward in farming — for reminding us that as long ago as 1923 the philosopher Rudolph Steiner wrote: "Consider a cow or an ox . . . What would happen if the ox were to eat meat directly instead of plants . . . The ox would go crazy."

Those who say the BSE crisis was unforeseen have the written proof that it was not. Steiner says: "If an experiment could be made in which a herd of oxen were suddenly fed with pigeons, it would produce a completely mad herd of oxen." You do not have to be a veterinarian to see the common sense in it.

Imagine a field of sheep and cows together, and a ewe dies. Does the cow gallop straight over and savage it, as would a hungry dog or a fox? No, it has the intelligence to work out that grass is better for it and, given a free rein, will always eat what is safe for it to do so.

There is a toxic weed called ragwort which kills all livestock if digested, but it is rare for cows to graze it. They know, they have brains; more brains than those who thought they knew better and arrogantly assumed that the cow's instinct counted for very little.

So here is my plea. Let us have this superdrug for all the benefits to memory and reasoning that it will bring. But do not try it out on the animals first. As last Monday's debate proved, there are far more urgent cases.

NIGEL HILLIER

Esmé Kirby with her husband Peter at their farm, "The Valley of Many Streams": between them they have protected landmarks, cleared eyesores, planted trees, designed and built bridges and stiles, and created paths

Welsh squirrels beware

Esmé Kirby, octogenarian protector of Snowdonia's charms, has her sights firmly set on a new target, says **Derwent May**

In a quiet valley in north Wales, an 80-year-old lady is masterminding a plan to reduce the numbers of magpies and grey squirrels in Snowdonia — and indeed beyond its borders. Her name is Esmé Kirby, and she lives on a farm above the River Gwyrd, which flows east from the foothills of Snowdon to Capel Curig.

She has been campaigning for Snowdonia all her life, and now she has a new purpose. She is appalled by the way the magpies raid the nests of chaffinches and other small birds in the farmhouse gardens, and believes their numbers have been much reduced as a result.

As for grey squirrels, they undoubtedly do a great deal of harm, both to birds and to trees in gardens and forests, and may have helped drive out red squirrels from much of Britain, which is Mrs Kirby's main concern. Apart from keeping them down on the mainland, Mrs Kirby and the conservation body she has set up, the Esmé Kirby Snowdonia Trust, have an ambitious plan to eliminate grey squirrels in the isle of Anglesey, and replace them with red squirrels.

For £5 the trust will send detailed instructions for making a humane squirrel trap. This is a simple construction, consisting of a wooden tunnel with a board that drops behind the squirrel and traps it when it comes in for the bait. Also for £5, the trust will send anyone a pack containing instructions, and the essential metal springs, for building a Larsen trap to catchmagpies. This needs wire netting as well as wood, but is also simply made. It uses a decoy bird, which other magpies will come down to investigate — and then a door springs shut behind them. About 200 magpie packs had been dispatched by the end of last year. (Of course, you have to give the captives a smart blow on the head once you have caught them.)

Mrs Kirby has done much to protect the beauties of Snowdonia and establish better public access to them. In her time, she has prevented the renowned Cromlech Boulders in the Llanberis Pass beneath Snowdon from being blown up during road-widening; has cleared a vast dump of old fridges, cookers and mattresses that lay in a rural quarry above Dolgellau and resown it with mountain ash trees; and recently has opened to walkers an eight-mile path through bracken and across streams on the mountainside she owns above her house .

Her farm is called Dyffryn Mymbyr ("The Valley of Many Streams"), and she and her husband, Peter, live in a sturdy stone farmhouse with a few trees around it, a bird table where peregrine falcons come regularly to feed, and Snowdon visible through the kitchen window on a clear day.

It is from Dyffryn Mymbyr that she manages her Snowdonia Trust, the successor to another body that she founded almost 30 years ago, the Snowdonia National Park Society, which still exists but goes its own way without her.

Even the story of how she came to the mountain is a romantic one.

> 'Peregrine falcons regularly appear to feed at her bird table'

Before the Second World War, as a young woman, she ran a riding school in Llandudno, which in those days was the town where all the Manchester cotton-brokers had their homes. A young man named Thomas Firbank, who was a nephew of the writer Ronald Firbank, had bought the farm of Dyffryn Mymbyr as an adventure, though he did not know much about farming. Later he was to write a very successful book about it called *I Bought a Mountain*. He saw Esmé in Llandudno and carried her off to the farm as his bride. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last long, but Thomas gave his young wife the farm. She has been there ever since, and farmed it on her own for more than 40 years, though it now has a Welsh tenant farmer. The war changed the course of her life again. A young Yorkshireman, Major Peter Kirby, MC, came to run a battle school in Capel Curig, met the girl farming up the road and married her. This time the marriage lasted. After the war, Mr Kirby set up the museum of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in a tower of Caernarvon Castle, became its first curator and is now an expert on the history of Snowdonia. He has stood shoulder to shoulder withhis wife through all her conservation battles and, being an expert carpenter, has made all the bridges and stiles that take walkers over the streams and walls on her glorious mountain path.

The Esmé Kirby Snowdonia Trust was founded in 1989 when the members of her earlier creation, the National Park Society, gave her a dinner and a present of £3,500. She put the money towards creating the trust, and well-wishers from all over the world have been making donations since then. She has numerous friends that she has made at the famous climbing hotel just down the road, the Pen-y-Gwyrd Hotel (where we had some splendid mountain lamb for dinner), and by the end of 1995 her supporters had brought the trust's funds up to £40,000. Time to start work again, she thought.

The first year's achievements included the public opening of the mountain path by the athlete Sir Chris Brasher, the repair — with the help of Forest Enterprise and Gwynedd County Council — of a boggy section of another mountain path near Trawsfynydd, and the removal of Tarmac heaps, old silage bags, and graffiti in many parts of Snowdonia. To help her, the trust has gathered a large band of volunteers with muscles and brains, and the Army has lent a hand with some of the heavy work.

What lies ahead? One splendid new project is the restoration of the original milestones on the great Holyhead road, now the A5, built by Thomas Telford in the early 19th century. On these elegantly carved stones there were once iron plaques giving not just the distance from London and Holyhead but the distance in miles and furlongs from the nearest staging post each wy. Most of the stones remain, but most of the plaques have gone. With the help of the Welsh Office, the trust hopes to see them all replaced.

This summer, too, many "tree weeds", as Mrs Kirby calls them, will be removed. By this she means the rampaging undergrowth on tree-lined roads that completely screens the views when it is in leaf. Again, by slow, steady persuasion of the local farmers, the trust hopes to open up all the paths that encircle Snowdon and to link them up with each other to form a reliable network.

A few days ago I stood on the mountain path above Mrs Kirby's house and looked around. The sun was breaking through the clouds above the valley, two ravens circled high overhead and a sheep peered down at me from a rock. The sheep had the blue paint mark on its coat which showed that its lambs would still need to be tested for radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl disaster and then sent to the lowlands to feed until all traces of the dangerous radioactivity had gone. Snowdonia has had its troubles.

I am not entirely with Mrs Kirby on her anti-magpie campaign, because there are more serious enemies of small birds, including cats and herbicides, and I like magpies. But as I looked down at the farmhouse, it cheered me to think that two doughty octogenarian fighters were still plotting away there for the future of Snowdonia, quite undaunted.

● *Esmé Kirby Snowdonia Trust, Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed, Gwynedd LL24 0ES (tel/fax 01690 720234).*

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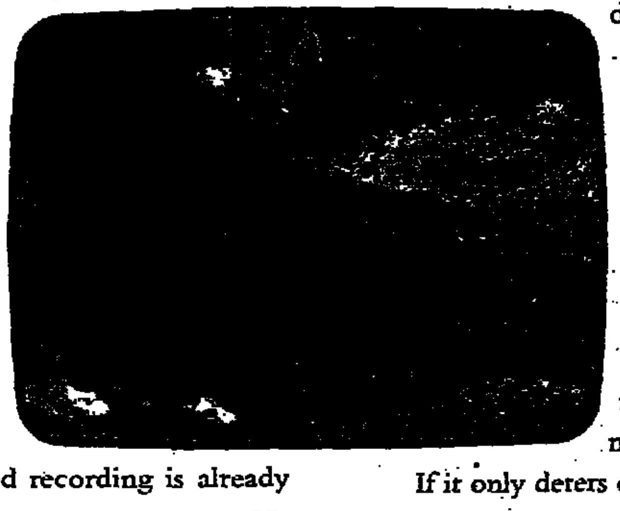

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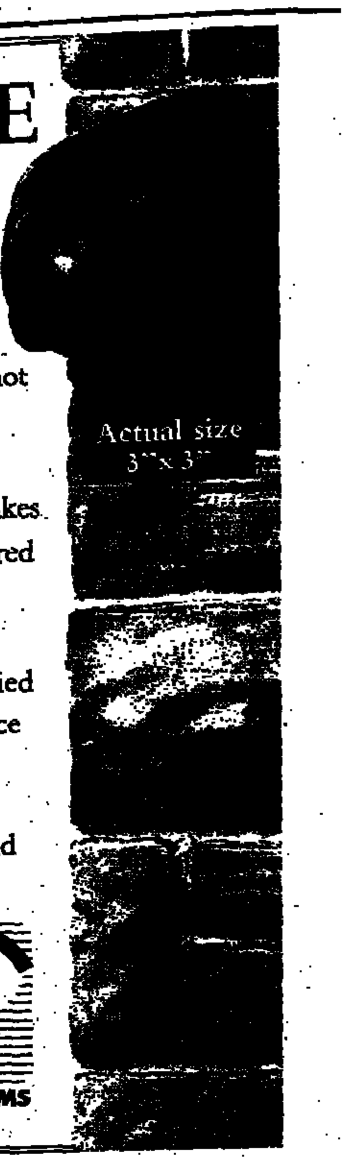

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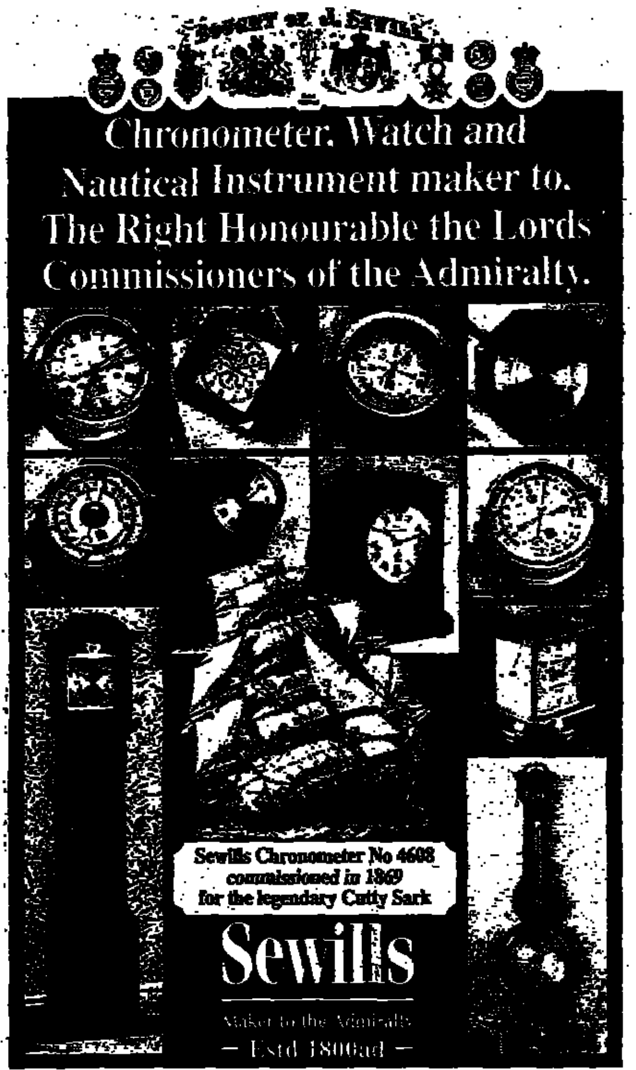

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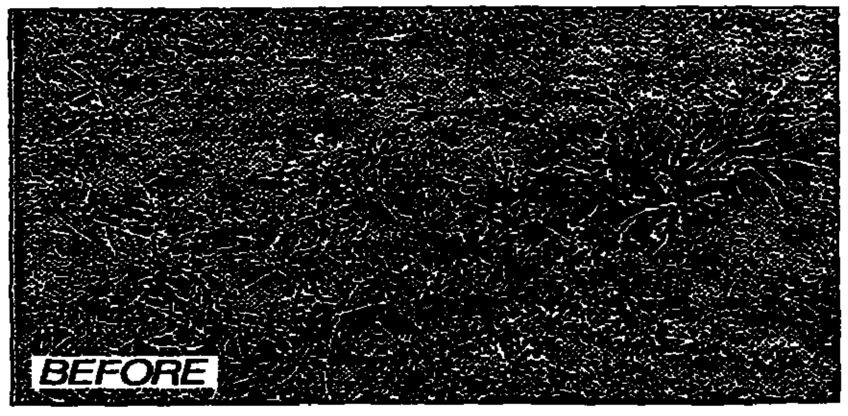

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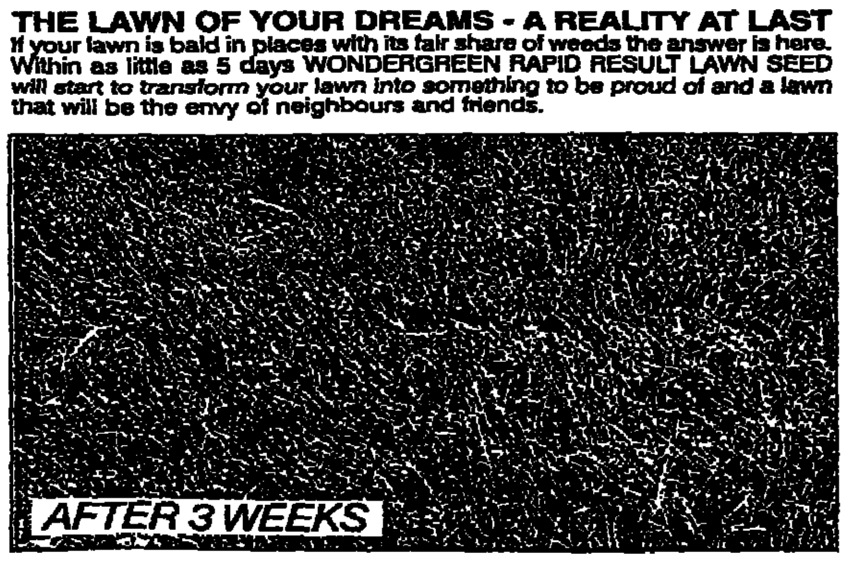

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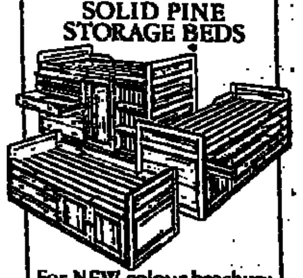

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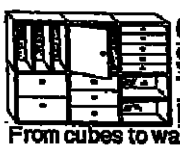

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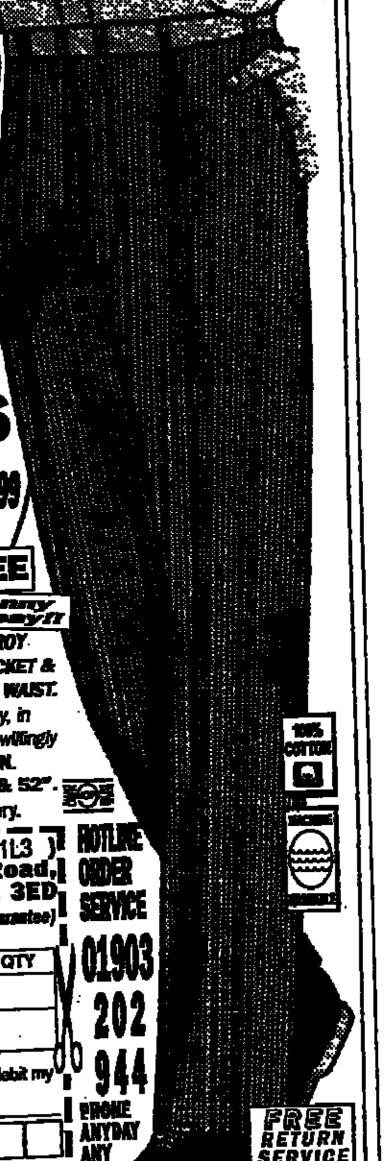

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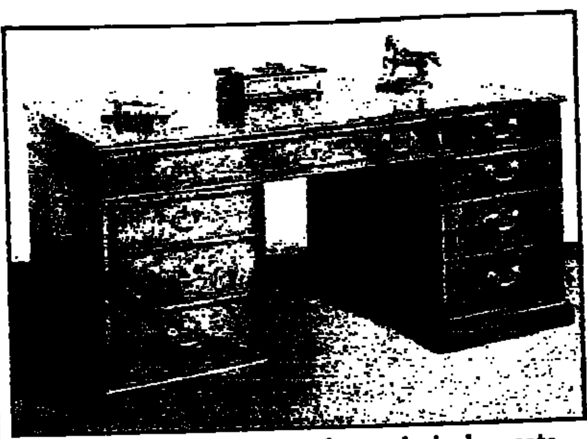

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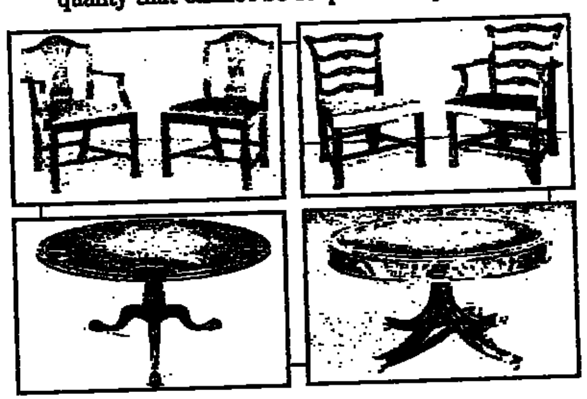

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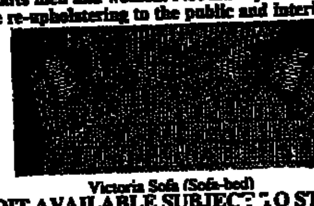

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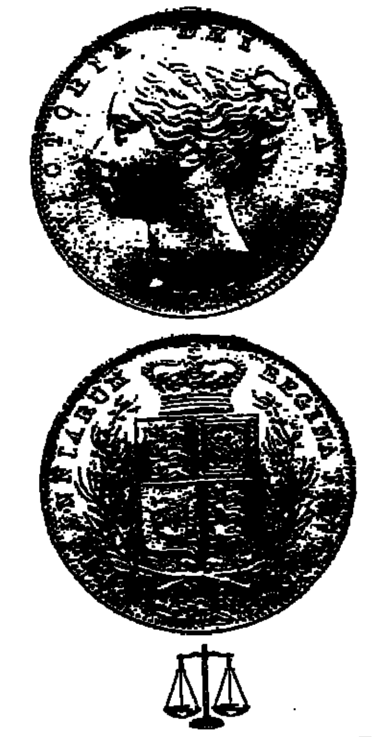
If you want to apply over the 'phone and don't mind a few engaged tones, call them on Freephone (0800) 614686, even on a Sunday. The Gold & Silver Bureau can also be reached on (0181) 551-8333, you may find out right away whether you will be successful in obtaining any. You can also fax your application to (0181) 539-4311. Don't send any payment initially, you will be notified if you are one of the lucky ones whose application has succeeded. You can also spread the cost by using one of your flexible plastic friends, i.e. MasterCard or Visa.

Authentic antique gold coins from the Victorian era will make a nice addition to the family's golden treasure. Most people, myself included, like the feel of real gold from a time when money looked and felt like real money should.

By Joanne Glover

H.M. Queen Victoria



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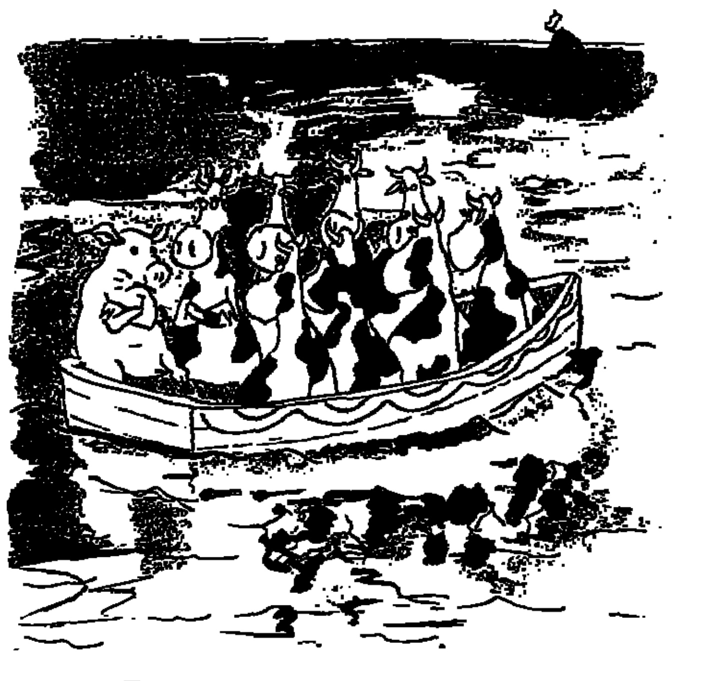
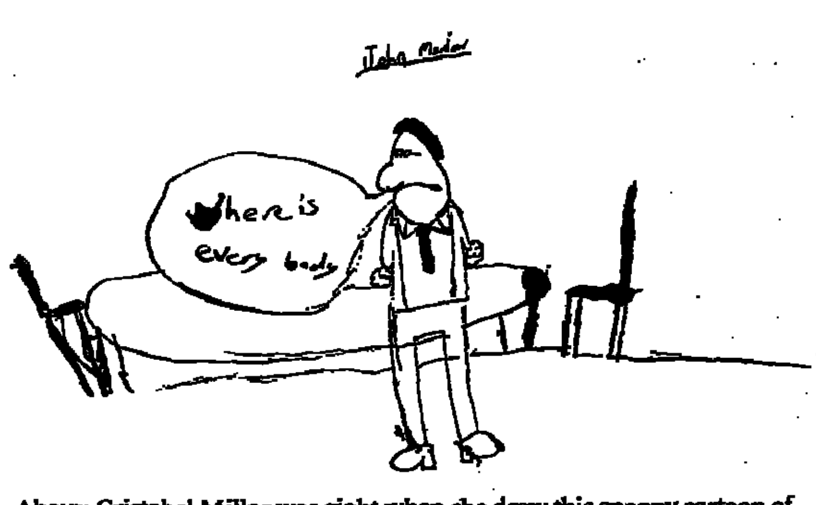
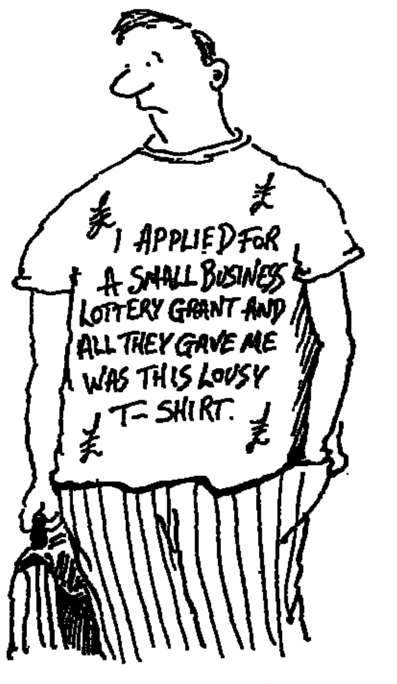
The Times Young Cartoonist of the Year Award in honour of Mel Calman



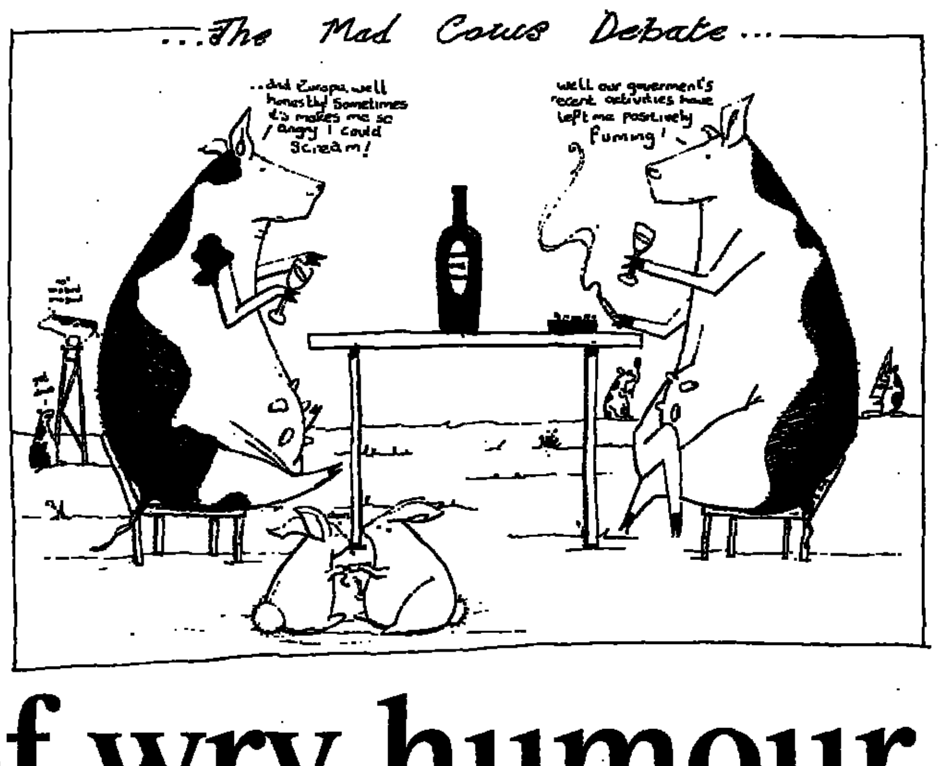


Above: Cristabel Millar was eight when she drew this snappy cartoon of John Major. The letter from *The Times* telling her she was shortlisted for the competition arrived on her ninth birthday — "the best present ever"

Left: "Look. All I'm saying is that if the worst comes to the worst, most of us here are convinced that there is a safe way to eat beef." This cartoon by Jamie Kyle, 29, of Liverpool, won him a place on the competition shortlist


I APPLIED FOR A SMALL BUSINESS LOTTERY GRANT AND ALL THEY GAVE ME WAS THIS LOUSY T-SHIRT.

Left: shortlisted in the Under-30 category, Richard Tomes, of Solihull, has had work accepted by national magazines, despite a lack of training — just a grade C in GCSE art


...The Mad Cows Debate...
...did Europa, well honestly! Sometimes it's makes me so angry I could Scream!
well our goverment's recent activities have left me positively Fuming!

Right: Chris Wreford, of Bristol, another entrant in the Under-30 category, won his place on the shortlist with this mad-cow debate cartoon

Pockets of wry humour

FOR RICHARD TOMES there's always a different slant on life. When he worked as a tree surgeon in the West Midlands for Solihull council, he was the only one in a team of hearty outdoor types to have a morbid fear of open spaces.

When Tomes, aged 29, finally decided to hang up his chainsaw after eight years of clambering about in the treetops, he tried to think of a job that would meet his desire to be indoors and alone. And cartooning seemed the obvious solution.

"There were some things I liked about working with trees, like building up my muscles. But I really wanted to think of something I could do without going outside in the rain," he says. "I get terrible anxiety attacks when I go out. The thing I like about drawing cartoons is that I can do it on my own inside the house."

Tomes has already had work accepted by *Punch* and the *Oldie* magazines, despite a lack of formal training. His only qualification, apart from the gloomy nature which is shared by many cartoonists, is a grade C in GCSE art.

Now he is one of the shortlisted entrants who will be gathering at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, London, next Thursday for *The Times* Young Cartoonist of the Year Award in conjunction with the *British Cartoonists' Association*. The annual award, now in its second year, is in honour of Mel Calman, who brought his dark yet touching humour to pocket cartoons on the front page of *The Times* for 15 years until his untimely death three years ago.

Even Calman, who scoured young artists' degree shows for new talent, would have been impressed by the youngest entrant on the shortlist this year. Cristabel Millar was just eight when she submitted her drawing of John Major.

The letter from *The Times* telling Cristabel of her place on the shortlist arrived on her ninth birthday. It was, she says, the best present she had ever been given.

"Cristabel is absolutely thrilled to be on the shortlist," says her mother, Richenda Millar. "She is very critical of her own work and was worried that she hadn't made the drawing look enough like John Major."

Cristabel excels in her art classes at Hill House International Junior School in London, according to Kathryn Gutteridge, her teacher, who says: "Out of all the 300 children I teach, Cristabel's is a very unusual talent. She is perceptive and way beyond her years in terms of cartooning."

Mrs Millar says she and her husband, John, have no artistic ability. "I think Kathryn is a wonderful teacher," she says. "One day she had a class on Picasso. All the mothers arrived to collect their children from school to find them clutching their own 'cubist' paintings."

Cristabel's portrayal of a lonely Prime Minister would have appealed to Calman, according to his daughter Claire, a freelance writer who is one of the judges in this year's competition. "My father's humour was very black — very much in the English tradition.

"When we were doing the judging I told the others that the problem with cartoonists is they're such a bloody miserable bunch. But I suppose you would be slightly worried if cartoonists weren't a bit odd," she says.

The competition attracted about 100 entries this year — down on the previous year's 300. But 1996 was the first year of the competition and the brief was wider — any cartoon was accepted as long as it complied with the chosen theme of food and drink.

"The Palace confirms that Fergie's new home will be financed entirely by her book sales"
By Simon Torrance

This year the judges set a more difficult standard: a front-page pocket cartoon along Calmanesque lines.

"There were too few cartoons that made me laugh this year," Miss Calman says. "We had a lot of accomplished drawings but it's original ideas that really interest me."

Peter Brookes, the *Times* political cartoonist, believes good cartoonists are born, not made. "The secret of success is more to do with having a quick and distinctive sense of humour than being a brilliant draughtsman. It's easier to improve the drawing than the humour. I don't think it's possible to make someone into a cartoonist — they have it or they don't."

Brookes shares Miss Calman's disappointment at many of the entries while applauding those that made it on to the shortlist. "I think there were fewer this year that were successful, but the brief was very narrow and quite difficult," he says.

His own cartoons are coveted by politicians, who often ask their office staff to write requesting the originals. "The only politician who writes personally is Ken Clarke," Brookes says. "Strangely, the cartoons he asks for always seem to be the ones that show him dominating Major."

Brookes's advice to young hopefuls is to try cartooning keeping their day job. "It's a very difficult field and it's easier to freelance while you work out what you really want to do," he says.

Jamie Kyle, 29, from Liverpool, was training to be a solicitor when he decided he could no longer resist the desire to be an artist. He is now doing an art foundation course at Hugh Baird College in Liverpool.

"I'm a drawaholic. I spent the whole of my law course doodling through lectures and finally decided to try to do art seriously. I entered *The Times* competition last year but I didn't win anything. It's really great to be on the shortlist this year."

Kyle is a Calman fan. "I prefer pocket cartoons to any other form because I'm quite impatient. I get frustrated if I don't get a result immediately," he says.

"I get most of my ideas for jokes at night, so I have a book next to my bed. Although I have always dreamt of doing something artistic, I am full of self-doubt. I think no one will ever laugh at my cartoons."

Simon Torrance, who was 29 when he submitted his shortlisted entry, has not yet been tempted to give up his job as a management consultant.

TORRANCE draws in his spare time and is illustrating a handbook on office politics. "It's the sort of book you buy for your auntie and she puts it in the lavatory," he says.

Torrance began drawing cartoons as a child and soon progressed to caricatures of his teachers at Bristol Grammar School. "I used to draw cartoons for my granny. I invented a new race of people with no arms and big noses. I was inspired by Asterix and Tintin and I loved the Calman cartoons in *The Times*, which was always lying around at home," he says.

"I have never entered a competition before but I would love to be a full-time artist if it would pay the bills. It would be great to live like Picasso in a huge house in France surrounded by beautiful women."

EMMA WILKINS

Snakes are better off in the grass

Keeping exotic pets is often a bad idea

"My landlord has thrown me out. I've got nowhere to live," the boy in the street said mournfully. I scarcely knew him. But it was that encounter which landed me with a new room-mate. Not the lank student with the calamitous green eyes — I never saw or heard from him again — but his pet snake, Dorothy.

Dorothy was moved into my flat the next day — a 6ft Royal Python, with a homemade palace of plywood and Perspex. Finding space for her was my first problem but paying electricity bills for the thermal lamp was the second. And then there was the winter's day — one of those Scottish ones when the frost is *inside* the window — when the lamp blew all the fuses in the flat and I came back from my lectures to find Dorothy as cold as chain-mail. I wrapped her in a pillowcase and she slept in my bed that night to keep warm.

Feeding her proved the next hurdle. Frozen mice bought from a pet shop elicited scarcely a flicker of the tongue. Wincingly I proffered a live gerbil. Five power-packed ounces of desert rat hurtled in terrified attack at a listless reptile. In the six months that I looked after Dorothy she ate nothing. Meanwhile, a pair of gerbils bred copiously in their cage in the corner of the room.

Then one day she began to shed her skin; not as she was supposed to — like a chantreuse slipping out of a sequinned sheath — but in chafed tatters. Her new hide was already drab and damaged. I telephoned the reptile house at Edinburgh Zoo and a keeper came round that evening to take her away. It was surprising, he said, that she had survived that long. Snakes are delicate creatures which in captivity need dedicated attention. Dorothy still lives there.

Keeping exotic animals was once a pastime for amateur naturalists and professional eccentrics. Salvador Dali cossetted an ocelot. Rossetti walked his wombat along Cheyne Row. But such fashions have reached the high street now. The doggie is left in the pet shop window while children covet scorpions, terrapins or iguanas.

Pets come in perplexing varieties these days. With the Chilean Rose and the Chilean Red, the Peruvian Pink Toes and the Mexican Red Knees, all to choose from, deciding which breed of tarantula to opt for is as difficult for the uninitiated as choosing between the Lambrusco and the Châteauneuf du Pape on the supermarket shelves — and might even bear the same social pitfalls. Careful consideration should always be taken before buying any pet. The outlay will be for many a major deterrent. Rare birds can cost thousands of pounds, and reptiles and certain amphibians several hundred. Cages take up a lot of space and a vivarium, with heat lamp and thermostat, is expensive to buy and run.

Beware: terrapins are serious growers, needing a bigger tank

Responsible pet shops will explain to their clients exactly what caring for a pet involves. Svelte viridescent lizards of placid temperament grow into dragons with scimitar claws and lashing tails.

Terrapins as petite as an old penny swell into huge gluttonous turtles demanding ever larger tanks. The water grows fetid if not frequently changed. *Chinchillas* and chipmunks may look cuddly in their cages but being excitable and darting they can be difficult to handle, and wreak rodentine havoc on soft furnishings and electric cables.

New Yorkers, when the fashion for alligators faded, flushed their unwanted pets into the city sewers where they thrived on rats and terrorised municipal workers.

In Britain, as exasperated parents dispose of their bored children's pets in ponds and lakes, viruses alien to our native fauna are released. The deaths of thousands of British frogs from a virus previously unknown in this country have been linked to the release of red-eared terrapins, iguanas and American bullfrogs into the wild. A equally important consideration is the harm the exotic pet trade doeso wildlife abroad. It helps create a blackmarket — now worth an estimated £3 billion a year — for endangered species.

Captive bred parrots are few and often prohibitively expensive, so wild-caught specimens, often of protected species, are smuggled instead, often in appallig conditions. Intensive live trapping of the the Golden Lion Tamirin, for instance, a small burnished primate which breeds in ever-dwindling pockets of coastal rainforest in Brazil, has brought it almost to the verge of extinction. Yet these animals are still illegally trapped and sold.

Last year the WWF launched a campaign calling for vigilance to help the fight the illegal wildlife trade. To boost this initiative it has set up a phone line for information about the unlawful sale of exotic animals and plants.

People are encouraged to pay attention to anything suspicious — vans arriving late at night outside a wildlife traders premises, advertisements for exotic pets in local papers, for instance.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

● *For a WWF information pack call the 24-hour hotline on 0148 426111.*

A VET WRITES

Q Since it's become less cold, Nuts, my neutered ginger tomcat wants to go out at night but I am worried he will be run over. Also, could he be "catnapped" — he has a beautiful coat? Am I being unfair to keep him in?

A Cats enjoy roaming in the gloaming. They are semi-nocturnal and have excellent night vision. There is a risk whenever a cat goes out, but hazards do not increase in darkness. When I had cats they were allowed to choose between a warm boiler room or a night on the tiles. I don't believe catnapping is a reality. Top grade cat skins are said to be worth less than £1 and the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 introduced strict controls about the supply of animals for experimental purposes. No scientist is going to risk his whole career by using an illegally obtained cat.

Q Fifteen months ago we bought a pony for our 12-year-old daughter. Rocky is everything a first pony should be — easy to catch, steady as a rock, ignores motorbikes, pieces of paper, dogs and other horses. But, he had a severe attack of sweet-itch last summer which might be why such a paragon of virtue was sold. What can we do to help him enjoy a sweet-itch-free summer?

A Sweet itch is a dermatitis caused by hypersensitivity to bites from midges. Raw patches develop along the mane and the base of the tail. These are very itchy so the pony rubs itself on fences or trees and makes things worse. Prevention is better than cure. The offending midges are most active in the open air from late afternoon until sunset. If Rocky is stabled from lunchtime until dusk he'll avoid most of the midges. Fly-killing vapour strips hung in the stable will also help and spraying Rocky with insecticide (ask your vet) is a third line of defence.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

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Photo: Jim Hutchins
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'Women barely contemplate seeing one another unless food is involved, diet or no diet . . . but men do it only when they're very, very drunk'

Making a meal of friendship

LIFE AND SOUL

GINNY DOUGARY

Just what is it about the idea of *dinner* that is so threatening to the average heterosexual male? Is the word forever associated with a schmaltzy vision of candlelight, romance, single rose in vase and *Mantovani* strings? There has to be a reason why my friends wouldn't dream of meeting *à deux* in a restaurant, let alone risk getting together over a bowl of pasta and a bottle of wine in each others' homes.

The other day I suggested to my husband that he invite one of his friends round, as a pleasant deviation from their usual pint-in-pub-post-footie male-bonding syndrome. What a reaction. In his mind's eye, he had clearly transformed himself into a mincing *Cage aux Folles* houseboy.

However interesting the differences are between the sexes, I have never quite been able to bring myself to read those gender-genre bestsellers, which all appear to have been written by Americans with degrees in socio-psycho linguistics — *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* and *Why don't you understand me, you great big banana-head; women yak, men talk back*, or words to that effect.

Perhaps if I had done, I would now understand why men will eat together only at night if they're under the age of 30, very very drunk, and in somewhere resolutely unromantic, such as a brightly lit Lebanese take-away, or an indifferent curry house under a winking neon sign: "Lager Louts Most Welcome Here!"

Women, *on the other hand, will barely* contemplate seeing one another — diet or *no diet — unless food is involved. This is* why restaurants are full of females — often in twosomes — day or night, because, although we have no qualms about cooking for one another, it's quite *fun* to escape the domestic scene, to dress up a bit, eat delicious food and be waited on. This way, you don't have to worry about the washing-up or the reciprocal invitation, or the child waking up just as you've got to a particularly succulent morsel of gossip. Male friendship, it seems to me, is completely different from female friendship, and I don't quite see the point of it. The girlie date is a rewarding bumper-pack of the confes*sional, therapy and* careers advice ses*sion all rolled up in* one. You emote. You whinge. You bitch. You ruminate. You beat your breast. You laugh *a lot*, and order another bottle of wine.

Friendship between women is all about intimacy; the sharing and offloading of feelings. It is the pleasure of moving from epic events on the world stage to the miniature dreams of one's own life. *It is both a* liberation and deeply *sustaining. I can't* imagine life without it.

Women are pro*miscuous* with their friendship. We let down our guard for each other, old pals and new, at the drop of a hat. For us, it is an effortless trajectory from small talk to big talk and back again. There is something enjoyably fluid and easy about our relationships — the passion and playfulness, the high seriousness and the high jinks. We talk to each other in the way *that men talk to* their lovers. Men don't have the same cherishing, cocooning idea of friendship at all.

Now, whether our husbands and partners would benefit if their friend*ships* were more like our own is an interesting point. It could be argued that if they were able to indulge in a little more soul-searching with one another it might take the heat off their primary relationships.

But I have to say that the women in my circle (and I include myself) are not noticeably undemanding because of our deep and meaningful, fabulous friendships with one *another*.

Why is it that women and men bond with their *own sex in such different* ways? I remember, years ago, reading *about some* psychological tests that were carried out on children — boys and girls were paired off by gender, and left alone together, two at a time. The boys set to work, happily building Lego blocks *together or making model aeroplanes*, and hardly exchanged a word. The girls, *in marked* contrast, started chatting about their families, whether their favourite doll was Sindy or Tracy, and hardly paused for breath.

The conclusion was that very early on, boys slipped into *doing* things together, while what the girls like do was *talk* to one another.

Perhaps that's why men like meeting somewhere neutral and bloke-ish, with lots of distracting things to do in case the conversation dries up. An old-fashioned pub is ideal — darts, snooker table, *mega-sized television screen — a haven* from feminine frippery; somewhere safe*ly, reassuringly male*, with a whiff of the barracks or the locker room.

It's a funny thing. Modern Man can change a nappy. Modern Man can cope with his wife earning more than him. Modern Man can cook, clean and hug a tree. But Modern Man wouldn't be seen dead eating in a brasserie with his best friend after dark. Dinner must be the last frontier.

Who says I need a husband?

Even in the 1990s, families are pressurising single women to get married, says **Adrian Mourby**

ASHLEY COOMBS

Suzi Bloxham, 27, with a portrait of her grandmother. "She's always saying she doesn't want to see me left on the shelf or that it's her dearest wish to see me settled"

Population figures tell us that there are slightly more men in Britain than women these days — and yet far more *of the women seem to be* single. Unless we are a nation of bigamists, this doesn't make sense; but it's true that *Blind Date* attracts three times as many gorgeous girls as fellas, and agony columns are either full of women wondering if they'll ever find a partner, or of women wishing that their families would stop wondering if they'll ever find a partner.

We may all have squirmed while watching *Pride and Prejudice's* Mrs Bennet push her daughters on to Mr Collins and Mr Bingley, but Mary Hooper, 36, a script executive who works for various London production companies, says the pressure *is still* there today. By *Jane Austen's* standards, she would be on the shelf by now. After all, Anne Elliott in *Persuasion* was virtually beyond redemption at 27. In her twenties, Mary didn't think much about settling down, nor did many of her colleagues. "But as you approach 30 you get *paranoid* that everyone is pointing out how you're single and they're not. I did go through a phase of feeling defensive. If I was invited round to dinner with other couples, I used to get steamed up about the fact that they spent all evening talking about their marriages and children, and yet if they invited me round with *other single people* I used to feel that they were *having* a 'be kind to singles' night."

Mary moved in with her boyfriend within a year of leaving college and split up with him when she was 28. "I think that made being 30 hard to take but the good thing has been that there are lots of other people in the same boat. I don't know whether it's a *London* thing but there are so many *women building their own* lives and supporting each other, and I like that. It might be difficult in a smaller place where everyone is in couples."

Suzi Bloxham lives in such a place. She is an art teacher who lives in Shropshire and readily describes herself as single. *Although Suzi is* only 27, she recognises, like *Anne Elliott, that marriage is* becoming the norm among her friends. "Suddenly there were all these weddings and I realised that more than half the people I knew, probably 60 per cent, were getting married — and I was always the bridesmaid."

But Suzi didn't go down this route. "I had a boyfriend when I left college but I'd got the chance of this really good job as head of art in Shropshire and that was what I wanted to go for." At 22, Suzi moved from Bath to a small school on the Welsh border and, of necessity, embraced an independent lifestyle, which has been a challenge but a thoroughly enjoyable one.

'All my single friends seem to be women'

Although she has lots of male friends, Suzi has noticed of late that they're all married. "All my single friends seem to be women!" she says. "But it's not a big issue. I don't mind being called Miss and I tick the box marked 'single' quite happily."

At 27, Suzi doesn't have that awful anxiety about her biological clock ticking away, which can plague some older women. The greatest problem she finds with being single is not having anyone to talk to when she gets home. "My phone bill is not a pretty sight; but I'm fortunate working with other teachers because they're all caring and interested people and I feel I've made lots of friends up here."

Having turned down one proposal of marriage, Suzi isn't worried that she'll never find a long-term partner. But this is something that Mary has had to come to terms with. *"The first thing to remember is* that it's not the worst thing *that can happen to you,"* she says. "When I see some of my girlfriends with their husbands and children I stop and think, would I really change places with them? They never seem to get any sleep or have any time to themselves. And as for sex, to hear them talk you'd think that *all that stopped* years ago. Maybe I always *come* back to an empty flat afterwards, but at least I get to do what I want." Seven years of independence have left Mary unsure that she could ever live with anyone else. "I'm so clear how I want to live my life now that I can't see myself making that *kind* of space for anyone else again. *I'd love to have children, but* not at any price."

Suzi is still young enough to laugh at the problems of not having a Mr D'Arcy or Captain Wentworth in tow. "These days when I go to weddings I notice people don't quite know what to do with a *single woman who's not* a bridesmaid. I find I get put on the 'bits and pieces' table. I don't mind that, but there have been one or two weddings which I've been surprised not to be invited to. I can only think that's because I didn't fit in with the seating plan." Fortunately, her family has shown no great concern to marry her off. "All except my gran. *I'm very close to her but* she will keep saying things *like she doesn't want* to see me 'left on the shelf' or that it's her dearest wish to see me 'settled'. Sometimes she even tells me that she's met this really nice young man and I *just know* what she's thinking! Fortunately, I've always been able to talk to her and so I explain that *I just haven't found anyone I* want to settle down with yet. It *simply isn't* a problem."

But if Suzi is still unmarried in ten years, she may not feel so sure. The problem for her and for Mary is the same as it was for all of Jane Austen's heroines. The world is full of couples and their values dominate our society. Mary says: "If you let yourself get sensitised to it you see it everywhere. Couples on ad*verts*, on TV, even *magazines* for single women seem to be all about how to get yourself someone. There was a time when I was *very hard on my* parents. I used to get irritated *if they* started fishing for information but I think I'm more relaxed these days. Most women do have long-term partners *and it's silly to pre*tend otherwise. But that *doesn't necessarily make them* happier."

● *Adrian Mourby's latest novel,* The Four of Us, *was published this week (Hodder, £17.99).*

Ruth Gledhill joins a Docklands congregation as members reflect on their marriage vows

Baptists for better or worse

THIS community centre, built 100 years ago as a centre for dockers, mirrors the sweeping changes that have enveloped London's docklands in the last decade. The Quaystone church meets in the tiny, pink-walled chapel built on the top of the centre, reached through a *series of* doorways, corridors and an almost-Italianate paved ornamental *garden*.

Its revival under the helmsmanship of the Rev Steve Hill, the *enthusiastic* 31-year-old Baptist minister who has built the *congregation up* from four people meeting in a living room, is such that *the chapel is now* almost too small for the 50 or so regular worshippers. *At our service* they included a doctor and his family, painters *and decorators* and office workers from nearby Canary Wharf.

Remarkably, almost all were in their thirties or younger. Tiny children *sat at their* feet, until they were taken to a separate room for Sunday school. We were within striking distance of the City of London but it *could* have been a missionary outpost in a distant land. There was a strong *sense* of the type of gritty, pioneering spirit normally associated with the American west. We were at the end of the first ever National Marriage Week. Bishops had been warning of the dangers to society of treating marriage as disposable, and urging couples to invest more *time* and energy in maintaining their marriages. Hundreds of couples *through*out the country had been to services to renew their marital vows *of lifelong* fidelity.

Rousing music at the Quaystone

But *at this service, Mr Hill* decided not to have a renewal of vows. In a bid *to reflect* the society around him, he decided to concentrate instead on the difficulties which can lead to separation and divorce. After a lot of *singing*, prayers and listening to a couple describe their coming visit to *the east on* a missionary project to tackle child prostitution, Mr Hill preached on anger amd conflict. What he had to say could be applied *to any relationship*, not just a marital one, he said. Speaking as someone who has been married for six years, he described taking his wife out for a meal on Valentine's Day.

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MINISTER: The Rev Steve Hill

SERMON: Could be summed up as: If crossed in love, don't get cross, turn to the Cross. ★★★★

ARCHITECTURE: Refurbished old chapel, like the surrounding Docklands a strange blend of old and new. ★★

MUSIC: Modern and traditional. ★★★

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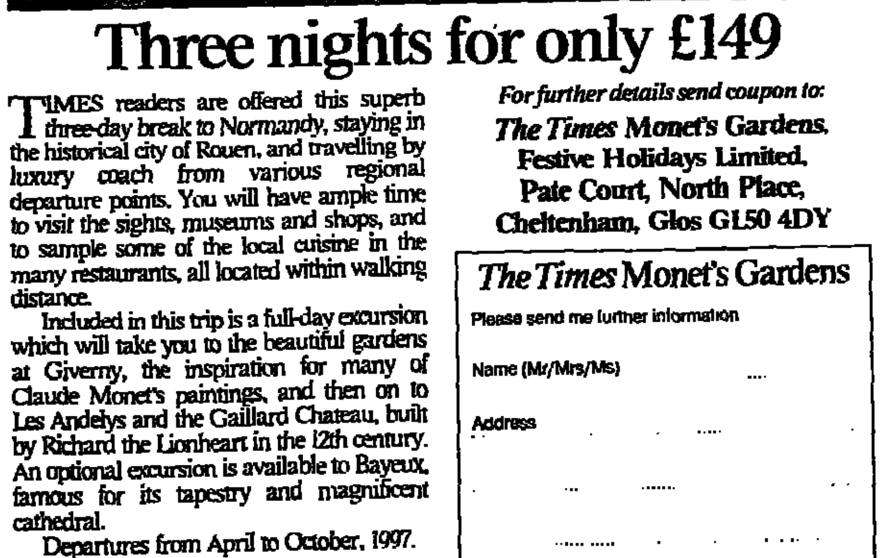
After driving fruitlessly around London looking for somewhere to eat (everywhere was full) he found a restaurant with a table but waited 30 minutes for the starter. He and his wife had a row. "She was upset that I had not booked *and reminded* me of our honeymoon," he said. "We went *for a day out in Paris* and ended up on the *periphérique* and couldn't find our way off it. I blamed Alison because she couldn't read a map. It ended with her getting out of the car and walking off. I drove off and only then realised I was on this one-way system and had no way to get back."

It all ended happily, he reported. *"But I am just saying this to show that* even on our honeymoon, we were a *couple with rows as a natural* part of our relationship. But it has not been six years of rows." Conflict in a relationship does not mean that relationship should never have been. "Conflict and arguments are there to help us grow and mature and become more like Christ."

He quoted from Ephesians 4.26: "Don't let the sun go down on anger." He continued: "The Bible says relationships should be characterised by peace." He warned against repression or explosion as methods of dealing with anger. Instead, measured confrontation was the answer, outlined in Proverbs 15.1: "A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger."

● *Quaystone Christian Church, Dockland Settlement Centre, 197 East Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London E14 3BA. Tel: 0171-538 5618*



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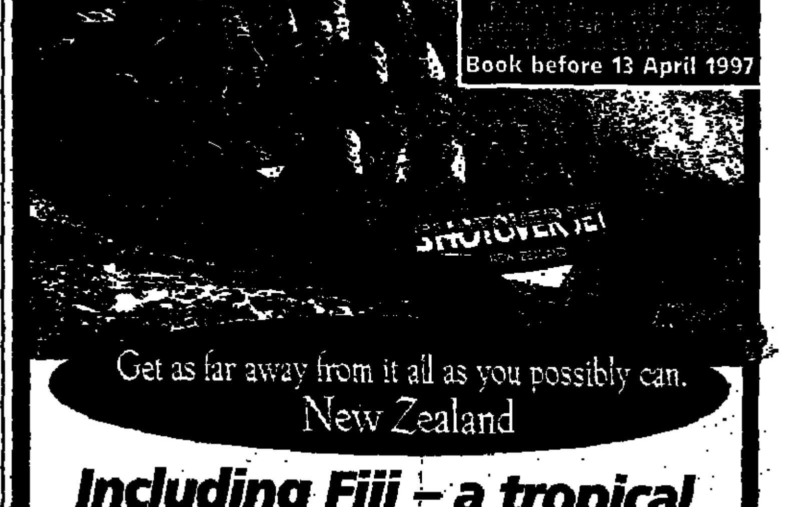

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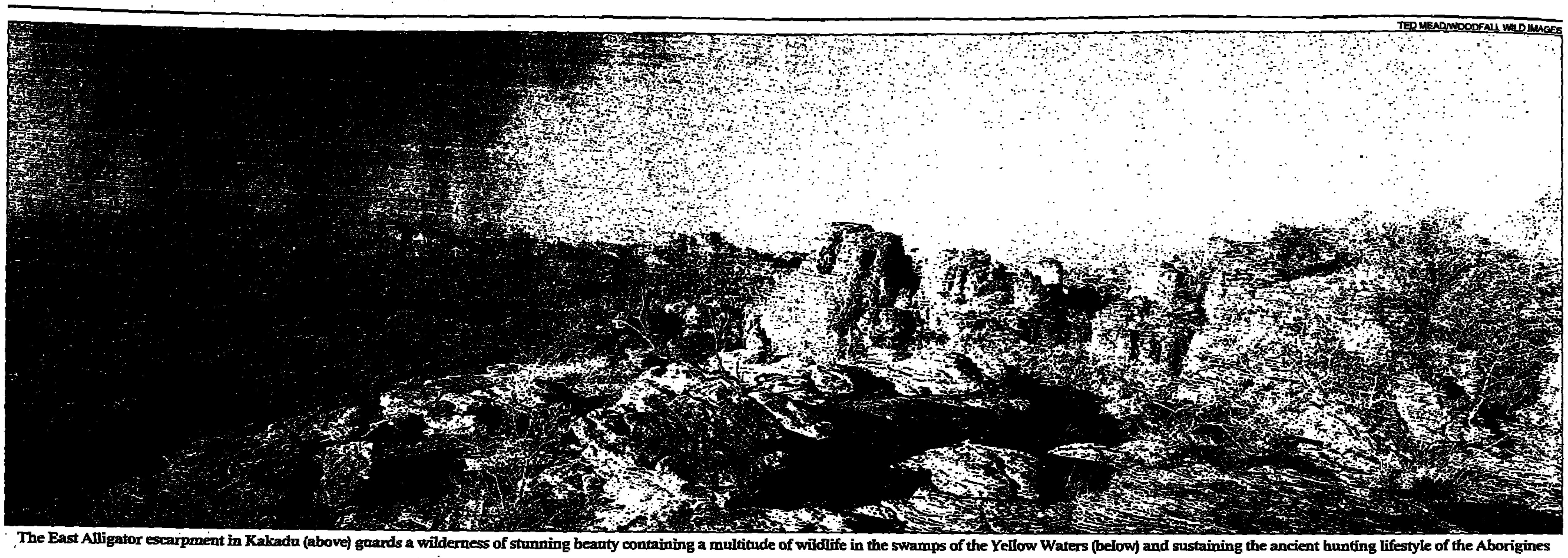


TED MEAD/WOODFALL WILD IMAGES

The East Alligator escarpment in Kakadu (above) guards a wilderness of stunning beauty containing a multitude of wildlife in the swamps of the Yellow Waters (below) and sustaining the ancient hunting lifestyle of the Aborigines

Up a gum tree in croc country

Australia's 'Top End' is one of the last truly unspoilt wildernesses in the world. **Adrian Hamilton** samples the serenity of life by the billabong

They take crocodiles seriously in the top end of Australia, particularly the estuarine saltwater beasts, the "salties" of film fame. These can grow to 30-odd feet, live to be 100 years old and can take a buffalo and, holding him by the nose, drag him under the water.

Not that any human has actually been taken by a croc in the Northern Territories since 1987. But with a couple of dozen saltwater and freshwater crocs to every kilometre (or "ks" as the Australians call them) and some 100 fished out of Darwin Harbour alone during the year, nobody is taking any chances.

Nor can they afford to. The hunters and the farmers may rage against the "greenies" and their conservation policy that preserves all the nasties. But the quarter-million tourists and backpackers come mainly for the wildlife.

And what a wildlife there is. Kakadu National Park to the south of Darwin is the largest wetlands conservation area in the world, a park the size of Wales with the complete ecology of the estuarial system from mangrove swamps to paperbark gum trees (surely one of the most beautiful and diverse species of tree in the world) to rainforest, woodland and granite ranges.

We were there at the end of the dry season in October when the water had retreated to the main rivers and a series of permanent lakes, or billabongs, around which the wildlife concentrated in astonishing proximity and abundance. The locals argue that the wet season, when the plains are flooded and everything is unbelievably green and growing, is even more beautiful, even if the wildlife is more dispersed.

To add to all this — an intrinsic part of it, indeed — there is the Aboriginal art, painted with ochre, spontaneity, surprise and mystery on innumerable caves and the rock overhangs of the escarpment that confines the estuarial system. Some of the paintings are more than 20,000 years old according to the guides — as much as 150,000 according to new discoveries and dating techniques announced last autumn. This caused considerable doubt in the academic community and an outburst of nationalist fervour in the press, eager to reaffirm not just Australia's uniqueness but also its superiority in age and progress to Europe.

The prehistoric and the indigenous — flora, fauna and ancient culture — are what Australian eco-tourism is all about, particularly in the Northern Territories which is trying to build its holiday trade on a total view of environmental or "interpretive" tourism.

Only opened up to exploration within this century and to settlement much more recently, the "Top End" remains still an unspoilt wilderness trod for literally tens of thousands of years by one of the most ancient peoples in the world. What makes Australia so exciting, is that their way of hunting and gathering are still going on — just.

You can turn your head from examining startlingly fresh rock paintings of stick-like humans and carefully delineated geese and snakes and then look out across the plains, the forests of dozens of different species of eucalyptus (Australia has more than 200) and the bird-filled billabongs. They are unaltered since the original painters had marked the spot and signalled the game in prehistoric times.

You can also look around and see a people pushed aside by a Western tide that has destroyed their social units, introduced them to alcohol with devastating results and made them subject to a degree of racial prejudice of quite astonishing openness among the older Australian Whites.

Guilt and new appreciation have led in Australia to the development of a policy of environmental correctness and retrospective recompense that is sometimes bizarre in its consequences. The Northern Territories is inhabited by less than 1 per cent of Australia's population, some 175,000 people, and covers a sixth of its land with an area the size of Britain and France combined. Of that nearly half is owned by the Aborigines.

Most of the wilderness at the Top End belongs to the local peoples and is leased to the government national parks administration and tourist operators. They bring in the visitors whose fees are then used to keep the Aborigines in a dependency economy, meant to preserve their hunting and gathering lifestyles free of the corruption that money always brings. Kakadu is owned by the Aborigines and shaped like a crocodile. But for a long time its largest hotel, the Gagudju in the uranium mining town of Jabiru, would not allow Aborigines into the dining room because their dress and habits upset the guests.

Anyone is allowed into the Kakadu and other national parks so long as they keep away from sacred sites and forbidden art locations. Only a few, and then at a price, are allowed into the surrounding Aboriginal tribal lands.

The masses visit the national parks in camper vans or just with sleeping bags or "swags", and plenty of water (essential in the hot season — and don't wade into the billabongs to refill if you don't want to become lunch for a saltie). The wealthier stay in the luxury hotels and — particularly if they are American or German — fish in areas where conservation policies have made the game plentiful and ready to be caught.

Seven Spirit Bay, a luxury hotel on the Cobourg Peninsula at the northern tip of Arnhem Lane, for example, has octagonal open-sided bedroom units and separate bathrooms under open sky that fulfil every dream of melding into the wilderness. On the other hand, it can only be reached by small aircraft and costs more than £200 per person a day/night visit.

As a multimillionaire septuagenarian complained: how could they restrict his luggage to get on the biplane? After much argument, he left three suitcases but insisted on bringing one essential piece of equipment — his exercise bike.

And yet our stay at the hotel was idyllic — good food, well organised walks, fine views of the sea. Oh, how one longed for a quick dip if one could only brave the crocs or the killer box jellyfish that come in for the wet season.

There are plenty who will tell you with a knowing nod how the only "real" experience is in going to the Aboriginal Arnhem Land and the tribal areas that surround Kakadu. But then you would miss the glories of the wetlands and Kakadu, a huge area with plenty of space to roam and — like American national parks — a ranger system that is there for the ordinary citizen. There is no snobbery among Australians. The backpacker is well catered for.

However, if you can afford the time and the money to take a trip into Arnhem Land with the small number of four-wheel-drive tours that take up most of the visitor permits, then you are in for something very special. Arnhem Land is huge and empty, the silence is full of bird cries and animal sounds and you are all alone with the spirit and culture of the place, able to visit art and billabong in an eerie peace.

The number of truly indigenous Aborigines in the area can be numbered in hundreds, perhaps a few thousand at most, in a country the size of Scotland, so the "native guides" who accompany you on tours or walks are usually from other states and are rarely pure Aboriginal. The guide on the East Alligator River turned out to be from the Tiwi islands with an English father and a half-Philippine mother — but he was very good, none the less.

It pays, and costs, to try to enter into the spirit of Australia, for all that most Australians live in cities or their suburbs. Darwin is an exciting town, half-backpacker, half-California style new marinas, with some international-class hotels like the Beaufort on the esplanade, some good restaurants and wonderful sunsets. But it is for the outback that one comes to Australia — particularly in the Northern Territories.

This state stretches from the tropics in the north to the "red heart" of central Australia at Alice Springs, a couple of thousand miles south. Staying on the land is the only way to feel it.

Down in the south we stayed in Bond Springs Station, a century-old, 750,000-acre property outside Alice Springs. Here the round-up is done by helicopter; the boilerman had been flown up from Melbourne to install the Aga shipped directly from England (within a few hours he had embarked on a fling with the girl from the abattoir); the election officials had come with a portable cardboard voting booth to make sure everyone did their democratic duty (the right-wing National Party candidate was an Aboriginal made good in the prison service and was objecting to more handouts for his people); and the guide on a breathtaking night of bird-watching was a former Gurkha officer from Zimbabwe.

However, the other property we stayed in at El Questro Station, in the north of Western Australia, was a luxury homestead on a million-acre ranch owned by an Old Etonian. You could stay in accommodation ranging from tents to cabins or the owner's ranch house perched spectacularly above a gorge. The landscape was red rock, with scattered minerals (you can chip away in what they call "fossicking" where there is a permit), hot springs and the primeval shapes of the baobab tree.

The property's "native guide" turned out to be a highly decorated part-Afghan veteran of the Vietnam War and the cattle driver called Buddy with a pair of bowed legs you could drive a "mob" of cows through. A genuine stockman, he made his living by appearing in rodeos with two six-shooters or a whip ("the Genuine Aboriginal Cowboy from Australia" as they billed him in the United States) and also modelling jeans in fashion shoots.

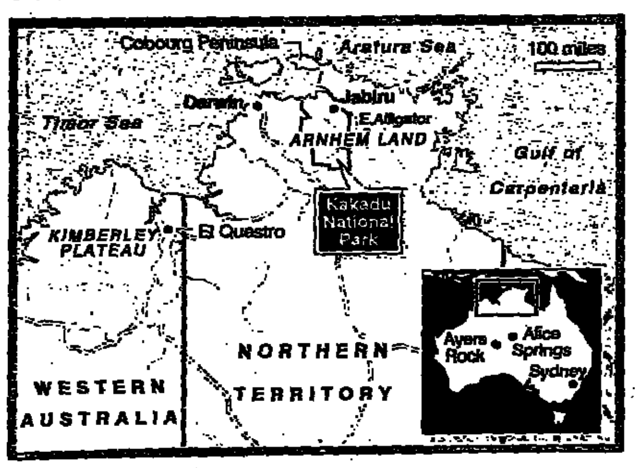
"They had us there, me and three models" he recalled, pointing to a big rock in the river. "And the photographer said 'Buddy, for heaven's sake don't tell the girls there's crocs in the river'. So I said nothing as the girls splashed in the water. But I did make sure my mate kept a rifle under a blanket close by.

"I told him: 'If anything moves in the water, don't wait. Just blast it.' By God, they were angry when I told them about it after."

The author was a guest of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission.

NORTHERN TERRITORIES FACT BOX

- *Northern Territory* **Tourist Commission**, Beaumont House, Lambton Road, London SW20 0LW (0181-944 2992).
- The Travel Portfolio Limited, 73 Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1RL (01284 762255), offers tailormade tours to northern Australia: example, ten days from £922 per person, based on two sharing, including economy flights and three-star hotels.
- Singapore Airlines (0181-747 0007) flies from London to Darwin, via Singapore, from £704. Qantas (0345 747767) flies from London to Darwin via Singapore from £757.
- Bus and four-wheel-drive tours can be arranged by the Darwin Region Tourism Association, 35 Smith Street Mall (089 814 300). Kakadu Air Services, Darwin, runs flights to Kakadu and tours, including one-day tours into Arnhem Land. Stays in Arnhem Land can be organised in Darwin from about A$300 (£141) a night.



- Accommodation at Seven Spirit Bay (89 790 277) costs from A$299 per person a night in high season (April 1-Oct 31) or from A$249 low season (Nov 1-Mar 31), includes three meals a day and cost of an access permit to Aboriginal lands.
- *El Questro resort*, PO Box 909, Kununurra, Western Australia 6743 (6191 614 318) costs A$640 per person a night at the homestead, A$60 in the bungalow base and A$45 in tented cabin accommodation at the Emma Gorge Resort. Tours, and fishing trips extra.
- Prices at Ayers Rock are from A$233 per room at the Outback Pioneer Hotel to A$334 for a standard room at the Luxury Sails in the Desert Hotel (Ayers Rock Resort Central Reservations, Sydney 2 360 9099). Scenic flights, A$60.
- The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Australia — Northern Territory Aboriginal Art*, by Wally Carnara (Thames and Hudson, £6.95).
  The Songlines, by Bruce Chatwin (Picador, £6.99).
  Northern Territory (Lonely Planet, £8.99).

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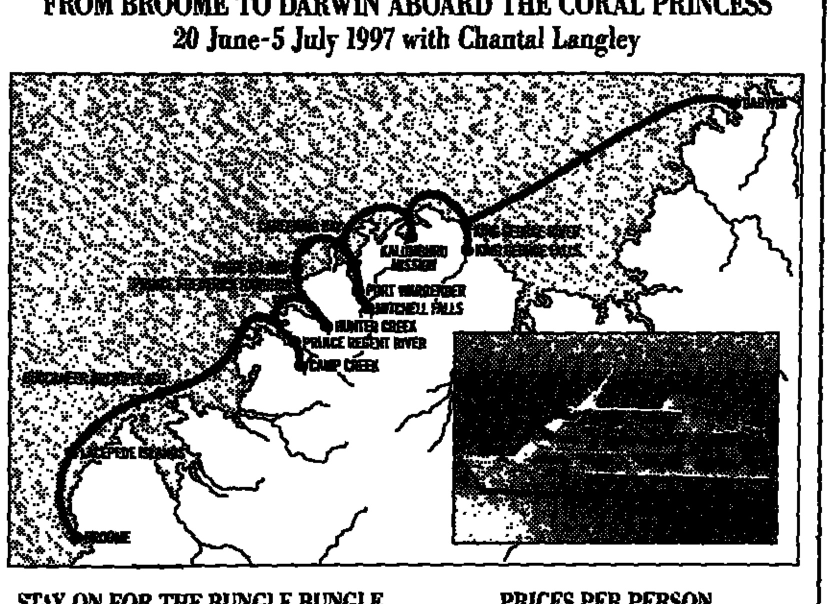

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Mexico: At sea, treasures of the reef Jacques Cousteau revealed; on land, ancient architectural heritage . . .

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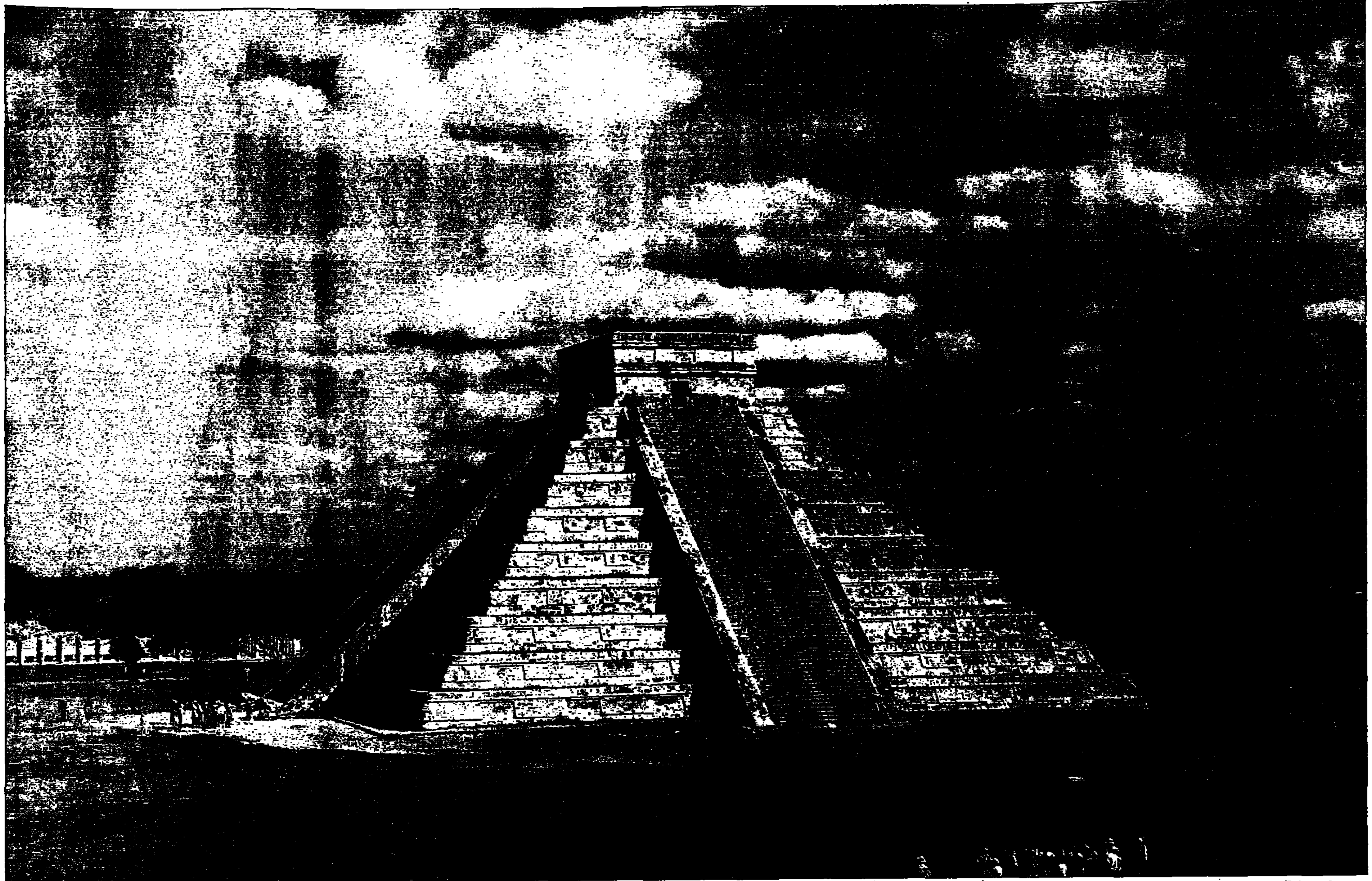


The temple at Chichén Itza, the greatest testament to Mayan expertise in mathematics, astronomy, sculpture, architecture, and construction, was an the principal place of pilgrimage for Mayas from throughout Central America

Diving with the god of the Mayas

COZUMEL FACT FILE

- ■ Continental Airlines (0800 776464) flies to Cozumel via an *overnight stop in Houston from £605 return. British Airways (0345 222111)* flies from Heathrow or Gatwick to Miami (overnight stop) from £367 return connecting with Mexicana Airways to Cozumel from £154 return.
- ■ The Hotel Presidente Inter-Continental (0345 581444 local rate in UK) is Cozumel's only five-star hotel. Its 1997 charges are from £88 per room, including tax. Lower priced hotels are found in the island's only town. Check with the Mexican Tourist Office (0171-734 1058) for details.
- ■ Global Travel Club (01268 541732) custom designs holidays in the Yucatan from £1,345 per person for seven days to £1,800 for 14 days, depending on standard of accommodation and services required, flying from the UK. Cathy Mathos Mexican Tours/Mexicana Airlines (0171-284 2550) also offers personalised Yucatan tours from £1,200.

According to Mayan legend the Caribbean island of Cozumel 12 miles off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula was the *home of Ixchel, goddess of love* and fertility. Today, it is better known for spectacular diving around the world's second largest coral reef. Above the water, equally spectacular Mayan pyramids and temples are no more than a couple of hours travelling time away.

When I walked through the door of the secluded Hotel Presidente Inter-Continental the concierge greeted me by name with a glass of champagne. This is something I *could become accustomed to.* Below my bedroom's first-floor balcony a *xtzo kaaho*, a blackbird with a long black beak, anorexic body and long tail, squawks and struts on long spindly legs across a palm-fringed powdery white beach and over to the large swimming pool with connected Jacuzzi, from which it proceeds to drink.

The range and quality of the food in the hotel's two restaurants — the indoor El Arrecife, with panoramic views of the turquoise Caribbean, and the beachside El Caribeno, sheltered beneath a roof thatched with the *huano* palm to form a Mayan *palapa* — puncture the first of many preconceptions about Mexico, its limited cuisine. So do the national wines.

But the main attraction for visitors is the reefs, revealed by Jacques Cousteau in 1954. Clemente, one of the PADI divemasters of Scubadu, which operates out of the hotel, *suggested* I didn't need a wetsuit for the dive to the Santa Rosa Wall. These Mexicans are some tough guys, thought I, it just has to be cold that far down. Wrong again on the second count.

After a 40-minute boat ride from one of the hotel's two piers, we dropped into water with a temperature of 86F: 90ft below it was only four degrees cooler, warmer than my local indoor heated swimming pool. The visibility is so good that the surface seems tantalisingly close, and then you glide over the edge of a white sandy plateau to peer down a vertical wall that disappears into an abyss 3,000ft deep. It's the nearest to a space walk that I've experienced.

The top 10ft of the wall is coral reef riddled with caves, grottoes, and tunnels. Accompanied by large inquisitive *yellow-finned and black* groupers, we rode the current to explore stunning coral buttresses, still vividly coloured even at this depth. Inside the caves, our torches illuminated giant sea fans amid purple vase, yellow tube, and brown rope sponges, while one long narrow tunnel was lined with blood red sponges.

The second of the two-tank dives took us to the Paradise Reef, two long ridges of coral rising above white sand 40ft below the surface. The strong current carried us past green knobbly star corals, corals looking like giant brown brains, corals resembling delicate purple ferns waving in the wind, and a host of others. I stopped to examine a pillar coral, and the first nine inches of a spotted moray emerged snake-like from beneath a ledge and snapped its sharp teeth at my hand.

TOMASZ TOMASZEWSKI

A fisherman hauls in his catch offshore at Yucatán

Each dive is different. All provide a multitude of multicoloured and multi-shaped fishes, corals and sponges. Even snorkelling ten yards out from the hotel beach showed a greater variety of marine life in 20 minutes than had a week's diving in the Aegean Sea. And for those who don't want to wet their feet, a trip in a glass-bottomed boat *provides* the next best experience.

You can use the air-conditioned luxury of the hotel as a base from which to visit all the principal Mayan sites by day trips. But I opted for a guided tour of the Yucatan peninsula which began at Tulum, the only walled city by the sea that the Mayas built. Its most impressive building is the Castillo, a limestone pyramid topped by a temple, which perches on the highest point on the peninsula, a bluff about 40ft above the beach. The region is very flat.

A recurring motif carved on many of the city's 60 buildings is a god whose legs project from above his head. This is referred to as the Diving God, or the God Descending from the Sky, or the God of Birth, or . . . Interpretations of Mayan origins and culture equal the number of investigating archaeologists multiplied by the number of surviving Mayas. This is due primarily to Fray Diego de Landa, second Bishop of Yucatan. With the enlightenment of a Franciscan conquistador, Landa realised that the snake venerated by the Mayas was none other than the serpent who tempted Eve to sin in Paradise. And so he set about exterminating all Mayan writings and traces of their history, and religion.

Fortunately, he failed to destroy the greatest testament to Mayan expertise in mathematics, astronomy, sculpture, architecture, and construction. Chichén Itza was the principal place of pilgrimage for some 200 Mayan settlements scat*tered across the Yucatan, Gua*temala, Belize, and northern Honduras, although by the 10th century it was dominated by more warlike Toltecs from central Mexico.

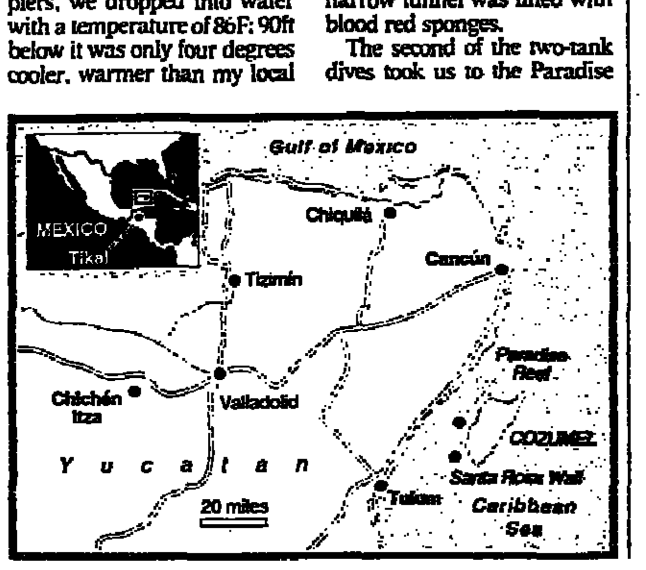
A singular advantage of staying at a hotel near Chichén Itza is that you have about two hours to wander over the site before the coachloads of day trippers arrive. At quarter past eight in the morning I stood alone in the temple of the plumed serpent, Kukulkan, which is built on top of a pyramid made of nine stacked square platforms of decreasing size such that the slope of the pyramid is exactly 45 degrees.

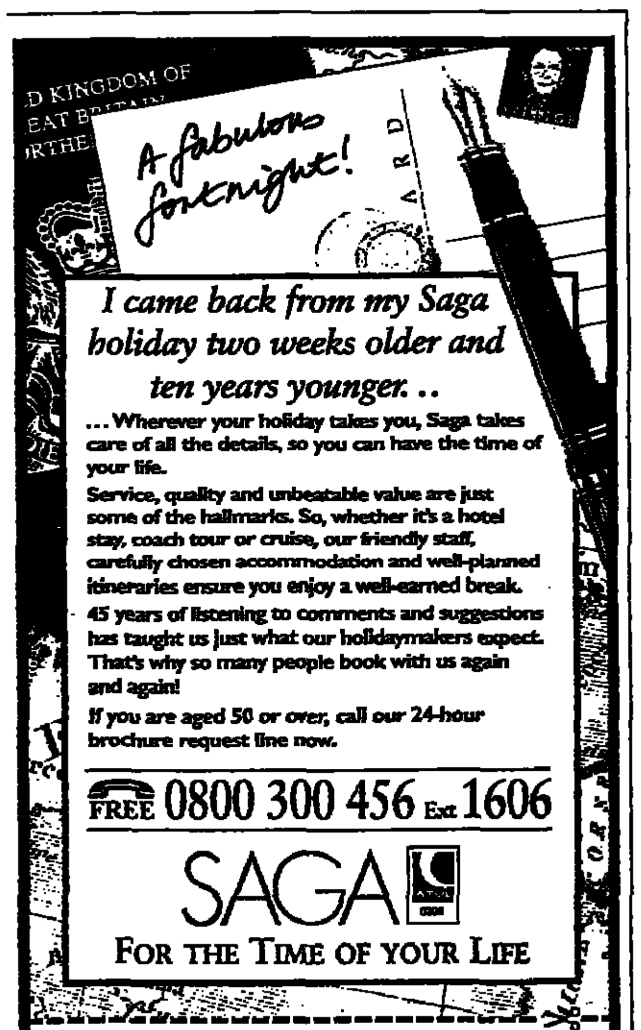
Below me, two eagles glided over the carpet of jungle that stretches to the horizon in every direction, pierced to the south by the white limestone dome of the Observatory. To the west of the clearing at the foot of the pyramid lies the Temple of the Jaguars, attached to one of the two long, high parallel walls that form the Ball Court. To the east the Temple of the Warriors stands atop a pyramid that rises from the Terrace of a Thousand Columns. And to the north a straight limestone path cuts through the jungle to the Sacred Well, into which sacrificial victims were cast.

From this vantage point it is easy to imagine the power of the priests over the throngs of Mayan pilgrims below, especially at the spring and autumn equinoxes. At sunset on these days the northwestern terraced edge of the pyramid casts an undulating shadow which joins the sculpted serpent's tail at the top of the northern ramp to the serpent's head at the bottom: Kukulkan is descending from his temple.

JOHN HANDS

● *The author was a guest of Inter-Continental Hotels.*





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. . . exotica at mealtimes in the southern state of Oaxaca; the pros and cons of taking a resort-style holiday

Crunch time at lunchtime

TONY MORRISON

Zapotec Indians in Oaxaca state prepare flowers for a colourful *posadas*, or procession, to celebrate Christmas

They lay heaped on the plate, fried to a dark reddish-brown. It had to be done — a spoonful sprinkled on the tortilla, then swamped with plenty of spicy guacamole, stringy cheese, anything else that might usefully disguise the taste.

If you want to return to Oaxaca, you must eat grasshopper. And after a couple of days in this enticing place there was no question. We chewed the *chapulines* (actually not bad) and moved on to the more mouthwatering items on the table.

Oaxaca — pronounced Wahaka — is a southeastern state of Mexico with the reputation of being culturally fascinating but a poor relation. The national Government worries about occasional rebellious eruptions, but visitors do not.

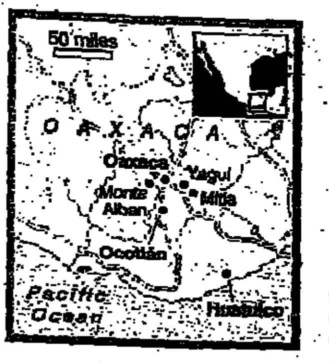
If your ideas of Mexico are largely confined to Zapata moustaches, revolutions and the writing of Graham Greene, you should not be put off. Greene may have hated Mexico's poverty and corruption but Oaxaca does not figure in his marvellous novel *The Power and the Glory*. Nonetheless, when you enter the stupendous gold interior of the church of Santo Domingo and are exhorted to "remember the needy", the Catholic dilemmas of the novel come to mind.

"One of the most extravagantly gorgeous churches in the world," said Aldous Huxley. We just sat in the pews and gawped. A brief unseasonal shower fell outside and men working on the restoration of a dusty convent next door smiled. This was December and it was the first rain since August.

Oaxaca city, the eponymous capital of the state, is a delight at Christmas. The zocalo, or central square, is the focal point of the city — actually more of a middle-sized town, with no tall buildings or wide boulevards — and it buzzes at all hours with stall-holders selling rugs, brightly painted wooden carvings, black pottery, leather goods, jewellery, hideous Nativity figures, steaming tamales and bewildering varieties of sweets. One man holding a very thin nib offers: "I write your name on a grain of rice" (irresistible for children with our surname). Women pass with trays piled high with *goyorias*, walnut and burnt sugar cakes.

Oaxaca is good at markets. Near the zocalo, around the Basilica de la Soledad, stalls stretch down steps, round corners, on and on, mixing with funfair rides. At the Plaza de la Danza, 30 flavours of ice cream were on sale.

Another day we headed off for the market of markets at Ocotlán, 20 miles out of Oaxaca city. Prices seem to be the same for tourists as for locals. People are friendly and do not get difficult if you do not buy. You can spend hours just walking and looking at the produce. Piles of bulging or emaciated chillies, dried hibiscus flowers, green-feathered toucan heads (the birds are trapped by putting glue on the trees), spring onions the size of billiard balls, goat skins. Even when I discovered that my wallet had been lifted it was not too upsetting.



Back in Oaxaca that evening there was a Nativity procession in the zocalo led by a young Mary on a beautiful donkey. We crunched past the *buñuelos* stalls — where you eat fried corn tortillas with a sweet sauce and chuck the bowl over your shoulder so it smashes on the ground as you make a wish — then got distracted by the dodgems.

In the distance a youthful brass band was massacring carols outside Santo Domingo. And the birthday *piñatas* were out for Jesus, so crowds gathered underneath these star-shaped decorations that were suspended above the street on a rope. A blindfolded volunteer has to whack the *piñata* with a stick until it smashes, then the goodies inside shower down and a screaming, laughing scrum forms. Our five-year-old retired battered and tearful after the first scramble. The six-year-old bided her time and got handfuls of sweets from sympathetic teenagers.

We returned to our marvellous hotel, the Camina Real, a beautifully converted convent and undoubtedly *the* place to stay in Oaxaca if your budget can stand it. In the hall an orchestra played; in the main courtyard the guitars of a mariachi band drifted up and serenaded the children to sleep.

Breakfasts at the Camina Real are a treat. You soon get used to putting away a plate of pork enchiladas, or perhaps *chilaquiles rojoz* (reconstituted tortillas with tomato, pepper and sour cream). Not to forget a *tamale de mole*, wrapped corn cakes smothered in a dark, chocolatey sauce. *Mole*, an Oaxacan speciality, is a fantastically complex, spicy creation with up to 72 ingredients, including chocolate. This is thousands of miles from the Americanised Mexican food served in Britain. Every morning Leonor would make tortillas on the griddle, while Plutarcho cooked the eggs or bacon if you were feeling unadventurous.

Monte Alban, a few miles to the west, is the most impressive archaeological site, a plateau created by levelling the top of a hill as long ago as 500 BC and creating a sacred site. Oaxaca state is mostly mountainous, but here three valleys converge. A sacrificial victim in his final moments could look out from here and have a view to die for.

All the buildings sit directly facing or at right-angles to each other except one, presumed to be an observatory, stuck obstinately at 45 degrees. Under the blazing sun Mario, our guide, drew in the dust with a pointed stick and explained in diagrams how the angles, dates, equinoxes and solstices are perfectly built into the architecture.

A sophisticated carving at Monte Alban

A few yards away carvings of hunchbacks, breech births and hydrocephalic heads suggested an early medical school. There are some dark underground tombs — Number 104 is impressive with its frescoes and maize god over the entrance. A torch would have been handy. This is essentially a Zapotec site (discovering the layers of pre-Hispanic history and the differences between the 16 existing ethnic groups is one of the pleasures of visiting Oaxaca). It was at its peak between about AD 300 and 700, but deserted by the time the Spanish arrived in 1521.

Compare this with the remains of religious sites in Mitla, a few miles to the east, where the *conquistadores*, in a crude gesture of domination, made the native Indians build a church over their temple and forced them to worship the Christian God. Only later did archaeologists discover that the Indians had placed their own idols inside the walls.

Yugal is another splendid site, if your appetite for ruins is still sharp, with its large restored ball court. In this amazing sporting ritual, dating back at least 1,500 years, a game of five-a-side was played between two teams, the idea apparently being to keep the ball in the air using convenient hips, elbows, knees and shoulders. The stakes were high. Either the winning or the losing captain (depends who you talk to) was sacrificed.

Our guide offered the view that it must have been the winners who were sacrificed. He bases his theory on today's Mexican athletes who, in the Olympic Games in Atlanta, did not win any gold medals, presumably through fear of having their hearts cut out.

A week was not enough in Oaxaca. We had watched the local liquor, mescal, being made and drunk it with a salt and worm mixture; seen a *guelaguetza* (folk dance festival); bought rugs at Teotitlán (recommended); and taken in various fine museums. We were off to Huatulco, on the Oaxacan coast, for some sand and sea. The children were happy ("not *another* market"). We did not want to leave. But at least, thanks to the grasshoppers, we would be back.

TIMOTHY RICE

● *The author was a guest of the Mexican Ministry of Tourism.*

OAXACA FACT FILE

■ The author travelled to Mexico City via Madrid on Iberia (0171-830 0011). Return flights from Heathrow via Madrid cost £407 plus tax until July 14, then £538. British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Mexico City for £439 plus tax until March 20, then £655.
Internal flights from Mexico City to Oaxaca city cost £108 return. Oaxaca to Huatulco £89 return.

■ Where to stay: Camina Real hotel, Calle 5 de Maya 300, 68000 Oaxaca (double room from £98 plus 17 per cent tax).
Hotel Hostal de La Noria, Ave Hidalgo 918. Attractive, good atmosphere, central location (double from US$32 plus tax).

■ Cox and Kings (0171-873 5000) has a Land of the Maya 13-day tour, including three days in Oaxaca, starting at £1,795.
Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) does escorted group trips (a 14-night trip, including Oaxaca, costs from £1,640 per person in a twin room) or individually tailored itineraries.
Kuoni's (01306 742222) Mexica Panorama is an 11-day escorted tour, including two nights in Oaxaca, and an additional four nights in Cancun or Playa del Carmen, from £1,598.

■ Where to eat: La Casa de la Abuela in the Oaxaca zocalo. Specialises in *moles*, red, yellow and black.
El Patio, between Teotlitlan and Mitla. New restaurant in courtyard. Excellent enpanada (chicken in yellow *mole*).

■ Best museums in Oaxaca city: Museo Regional de Oaxaca next to Santo Domingo (brilliant Mixtec treasures). Museo Rufino Tamayo (pre-Hispanic artefacts).

■ Tourist office in Oaxaca: (00 52 951) 4 28 37
Mexican Ministry of Tourism, 60-61 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DS (0171-734 1058).

■ Essential: take a pocket Spanish dictionary.

High-rise horrors

Cancún is a holiday resort on the eastern fringes of Mexico's Yucatán peninsuala. There, on a narrow skein of land ribboning between turquoise seas and a soupy lagoon, vast hotels have descended like spaceships. At night, under the splintered stars of a tropical sky, they glimmer eerily, casting a slick of light over the dark waters. By day they hum with the hustle of the tourist trade. The palm-thatched villages of Yucatán's native culture have been erased. Mexican traditions have been ransacked and drained almost dry.

Downtown Cancún is like some time-trapped land where every night can be Saturday. It bristles with restaurants and nightclubs, discos and bars. You can dine on food from almost any part of the world from Portugal to Polynesia. But it is the stamp of the United States which is strongest. Mexican food, where you can find it, is good. Small cafés offer an economical *comida corrida* (set lunch) where spicy Yucatán dishes such as *pollo pibil* (chicken cooked in banana leaves) or succulent fresh seafish are served with side dishes of chile, avocado and tortillas.

Native Mayan culture has been reduced to a consumer commodity in Cancún. Its last tawdry remains linger amid the tourist tat of shopping malls: silver jewellery and woven blankets, carved wooden masks and painted pottery. However, a short drive away the ruined cities of a pre-Hispanic people can still be found, as unearthly in their own way as Cancún.

It is best to get to Chichén Itzá early in the morning. From about 10am, coachloads of other visitors begin to arrive. Overweight Texans haul themselves up the temple stairways like weight-watchers on some Mayan Stepmaster. One can imagine the ancient past when files of Maya priests in feather headdresses would zigzag slowly to the pinnacles of sacred pyramids. Then, to the faithful who worshipped from afar, they would look like the great plumed serpent Quetzalcoatl. The only plumed serpent I saw was on the road back. A vast python had been crushed by a coach. Vultures were already devouring it.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

● *The author was a guest of Sunset Holidays*

Cancún: Mexican traditions have been ransacked

Or try Huatulco

The guidebooks described Huatulco, the beach resort on the south coast of Oaxaca state, as "the new Cancún". Mexico may be the destination for 1997, but Huatulco is earmarked as its resort of the millennium. The setting is beautiful, as the Mexican government noticed when it decided that Huatulco was the latest big project: nine bays, ripe for development over the next two decades. But today the comparison with Cancún is way off the mark. The hotels (only a handful so far, all upmarket) are no higher than six storeys. The water is clean. There are only 1,832 rooms in the whole resort.

There has been no mad scramble to build. Access to Huatulco is difficult. There is an airport but the road down from Oaxaca is tortuous and takes seven hours. A large road is planned but may be years away. Also, foreign investment has not been as enthusiastic as was hoped. When you ask who is building the next hotel, the director of development smiles and shrugs.

Huatulco is not for people who are interested in Mexico. Apart from indifferent shopping in La Crucecita or Santa Cruz (both new towns), you are in international country and likely to have chosen it for the high-quality hotels, beaches and activities. There are no historic sites within close range.

We stayed at the comfortable Royal Maeva, a sort of glorified Club Med, where at Christmas 60 per cent of guests were Canadian, 20 per cent were American and most of the rest Mexican or Guatemalan. For all-inclusive rates you get room, food, drink and activities, including tennis, snorkelling, scuba diving, sailing and windsurfing. The food was pleasant but bland after the delights of proper Mexican cuisine in somewhere like Oaxaca city. The staff were superb. The sun blazed down.

The children, from infants to teenagers, adored it. The adults enjoyed themselves too, but would have preferred somewhere more Mexican and less purpose-built. West along the coast is Puerto Escondido, a complete contrast — more Mexican, more interesting. The Santa Fe hotel is the place to stay, overlooking Zicatela Beach. Along the coast at Mazunte is a successful turtle research and conservation centre (turtles lay thousands of eggs along this coast) and Manialtepec lagoon is a peaceful getaway.

TIMOTHY RICE

● *Royal Maeva, PO Box 227, Bahías de Huatulco, Oaxaca 70989, Mexico. Until April 6, a double room costs US$120 per person per day, all-inclusive. Variable according to season.*

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

ASHRAM
(c) In India, a place of religious retreat, sanctuary, or hermitage. Hence *ashramite*, an occupant of an ashram. From the Sanskrit *ā* near to, towards + *srama* exertion, earnest endeavour. "The traditional ashram is built of wattle and mud, and its roofs are of leaves."

DOSSY
(b) Stylish, smart. Hence *dossily*. *Cf.* the Scottish *doss* neat, spruce, *dossie* small, neat, a well-dressed person. "What with the ladies' bonnets and blokes' dossy hats."

GOMPA
(b) A Tibetan temple or monastery. From the Tibetan and Jäschke *dgòn-pa*, a solitary place, a hermitage. "The monastery is named in Tibetan *Gón-pa*, vulgarly *Góm-pa*, or a solitary place or hermitage; and most monasteries are situated at least some distance off from villages."

BUCKEEN
(a) A female aboriginal Indian in Guiana. From the Guiana Dutch *bokin*, the female of *bok* a goat or buck. "They called her a *buckeen*; how much prettier than the word squaw."

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Jane Reed finds that life is never too short to stuff a mushroom during a cookery course in southern Italy

Lessons from pasta masters

"So you went all that way just to buy this Italian *cookbook*?", said the nephew, flicking through it dismissively. It was Sunday. As usual I was cooking lunch at home for him, the nieces, the wives, boyfriends, their friends and as many of the family who were up.

I opened the oven door and a gust of steam filled the kitchen. "Well? What is it then?" said one, sniffing the air. "*Agnello e patate al forno*." There was a pause. "That's just roast lamb and potatoes," said the one who did a GCSE in menu Italian. "Yes," I said.

Well, it was. But I hoped they would notice the difference. This was a Puglian-style roast lamb and potatoes, a dish of the region of Puglia which I had just visited on a week's cookery course at great expense with one of the nieces and an old friend.

I had to admit that what was on the serving plate didn't look exactly cordon bleu. Puglian food is rustic, no doubt about it. No towers of mousselines, elegant *jus or coulis*. This was just cubes of lean lamb that fell *apart at the touch of a fork*, with chunks of waxy, roasted *potatoes, little roasted* tomatoes, breadcrumbs, grated pecorino, *finely chopped* fresh oregano, rosemary and flat-*leaf* parsley, the *obligatory* drizzle of olive oil, some white wine and water, in the oven for a little over an hour. "Now that's what I call local culture," sighed the niece's partner, who as of this minute will inherit my entire fortune. "You can keep all the museums, galleries and churches. This is what you go abroad for."

I suppose the success of a cookery-course holiday has to be judged by the quality of the subsequent eating. If so, this holiday was a triumph. With *praise like that — and more for* the *pesche ripiene*, made by *the neice who travelled with* me — you tend to forgive things like no hot water, not enough hands-on cooking or explanation about the region.

And yes, I would have liked to know more about Puglia in the heel of Italy and its contents because it was different. Olive groves from the distant hills to the water's edge; stone walls, small fields, more olives. It's not as developed as it would be farther north. The Puglian mentality centres on *domani* — they prefer siestas to building Sheratons. (Or mending the shower *in my* bathroom, *come to* that.)

Ostuni, *the nearest small* town to our course, was the typical old and *new town mix*; half Moorish fortification, half Harlow New Town. It was September, the temperature in the 70s, and technically out of season. We tried to blend unobtrusively into a warm, wet Wednesday afternoon to watch the town wake from its siesta around 4.30; we jumped out of the way of the armada of boy students on Lambrettas racing out of school, the beautiful young girls gigglng as they go by; we downed an espresso with a slice of *torta di ricotta* at the corner coffee bar. Living the life. Or pretending to. I have often wondered if Italian holidaymakers hang out in Truro or Slough trying nonchalantly to look British.

On Saturday morning you mill around in the impressive market in Ostuni among the wonderful food stalls, trays of fresh, white ricotta, yellow-gold wheels of local cheese they encourage you to taste before buying; ten tubs of different olives, of capers in *salt or wine vinegar*, long red chillies, big yellowy-green peppers, *tomatoes — still dusty* from the vine. We bought far *more than we could consume* or give away.

And who were we? *What* sort of people go on cookery *courses in southern Italy? The* niece had money on the fact *that she* would be the youngest on the course by 20 years — and she lost.

And the friend and I expected it would be all women — and it wasn't. There was Betty and her daughters, of course. Betty, 76, is very pretty, tall and slim with thick white, bobbed hair, and this was her third time in Puglia..

The young Scottish couple were accountant and systems analyst respectively. They tried to book the room beautifully photographed in the brochure for the course at La Spagnulo, *but discovered it* was used exclusively by *Susanna Gelmetti, the course's* inspiration and executive cook. *They were disappointed* and would have taken off after a few days had we not all got on so well.

There were two rather similar, attractive couples from the home counties. They knew a lot about cooking and eating out. They had productive gardens and went on mushroom- and truffle-hunting weeks. One of the husbands broke out of the mould and joined the "boys behaving badly" group, about which more later.

Then there were the Swedish ladies from Wimbledon and Malmo, and the retired *headmistress*, Elizabeth, *who* we all called Myrtle (don't ask).

Eighteen of us in all, with *some common threads*. We were all interested in food, liked cooking, and clearly knew rather a lot about it: liked *eating out* and could swap restaurants and recipes. So watching Susanna press *pate sucre* into cake tins for half an hour on the first evening left us all a little flat. But with that unquenchable *British spirit*, we made light of it in a mustn't-grumble sort of way.

We made light of the many *small irritations* of any holiday; we laughed a lot, did the *conga round the pizza oven*, played practical jokes, got merry on orange-coloured Campari cocktails. We diligently rolled wafer-thin slices of grilled courgette around little chunks of salty local cheese and stuffed endless arrays of fruit and vegetables. The Puglian way of life is not too short to stuff a mushroom *you see, or a courgette, or an* aubergine, *or a tomato* . . .

But *it was the sexy way* Tonino (the local chef and *restaurant owner* who worked alongside Susanna) in one *fluid movement* smashed the garlic with the flat of his knife, *then chopped it, the tip of the* knife never leaving the chopping board, *that made us* breathe a little faster; and the *tips (or "teeps" as they became* known) that we picked up *from Tonino. Susanna* and the other guests.

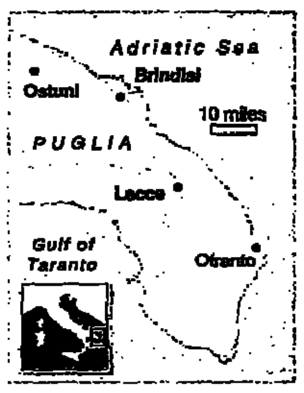
Susanna is a *rather dramat*ic 34-year-old Italian of, I *think, grand parentage but* who seems to have spent much *of her childhood in the kitch*en. A journalist, she found backing in London for a scheme that would blend her passion for cooking with a yearning to explain to the world the many blessings of the Italian lifestyle. Six years ago after she opened her first cookery school in Umbria, she opened another in Puglia. This one is a very different kind of school — more rustic, very *informal*, *more* a *holiday than* a cookery course. You are invited *to purchase Sus*annah's excellent book and a very *reasonable five-litre* can of olive oil at the end of the week.

Our day went like this: after breakfast we watched Susannah and Tonino cook lunch, with occasional help from us. After lunch we slept; then we bundled into mini-vans to visit places of local interest, and finally returned to watch Tonino cook our supper.

The best trip was a day out in the old city of Lecce, to see the renowned food market, the rococo cathedral and to picnic in a city park. The local dog-walkers are used to seeing these crazy English people every Wednesday laying out a table with *frittata*, rice salad, wine, crusty bread, and grapes bought in the market. I think we sang in the coach going home. The Swedes have a bouncy and peculiar road song about sitting in the back of cars and hoping not to crash.

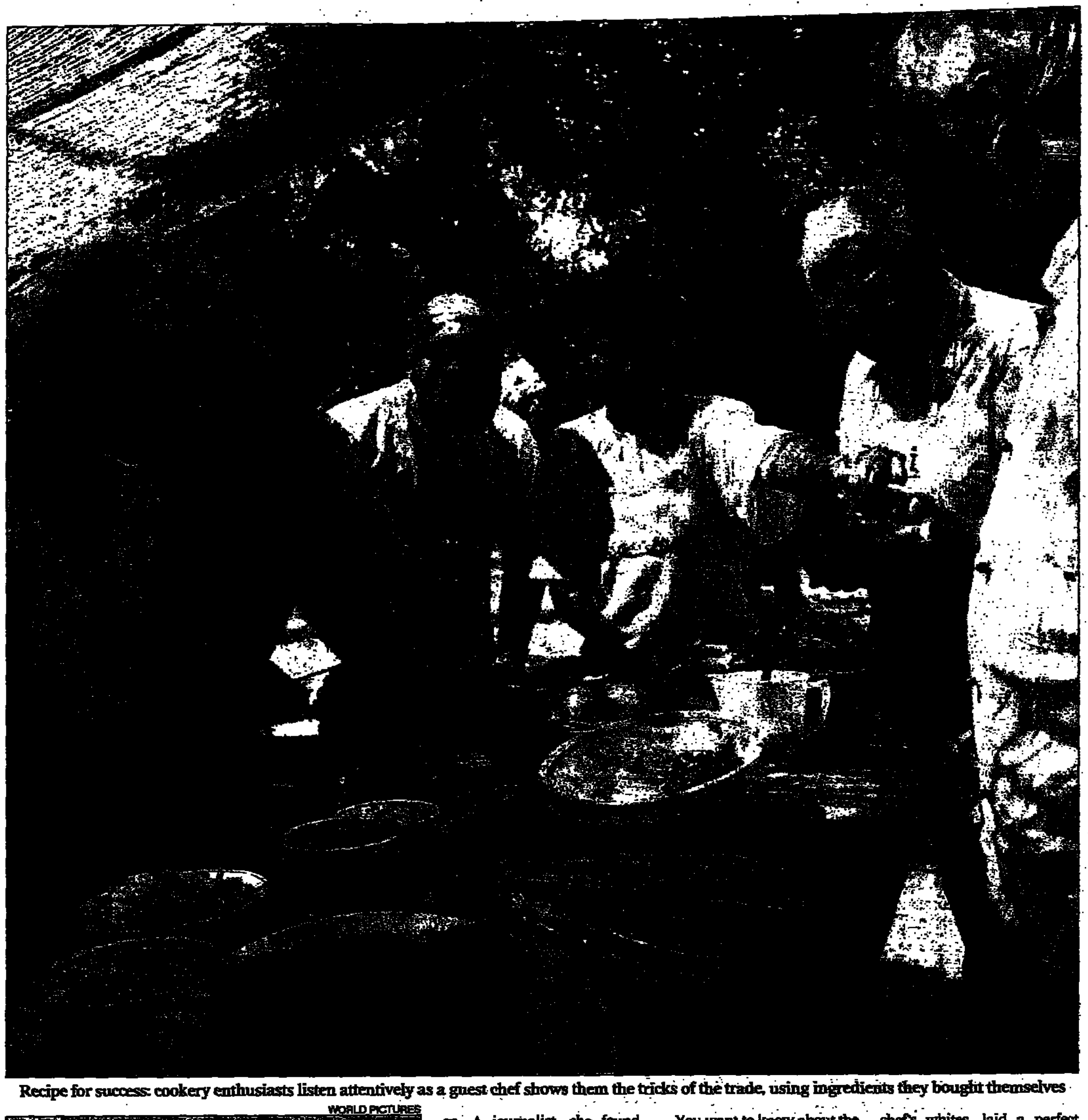
"*Home*" was a 15th-*century* castle, La Spagnulo, crumbling *and beautiful* and highly recommended in a book on *bed and breakfast in Italy, its* chapels and storerooms now *converted into ensuite rather* minimalist bedrooms (with *rather minimalist plumbing*). You remember the castle in the *last scene of the last Godfather* film where he falls *off his chair, dead*? Well, *La* Spagnulo was a bit like that, very filmic.

You want to know about the boys behaving badly? Well, the first night Simon, Mark, Neil and Chris played bar football until dawn and drank anything they could find in the terrace bar — a heady combination of Coke, Campari, beer, wine, peach nectar, strange brandies — with a few hangers-on and chef Tonino. At 5am Tonino, by all accounts, *suddenly got up*, donned his chef's whites, laid a perfect table and made them all spaghetti in truffle oil with chillis. Just like that. They came into class the next day clutching heads, herb teas, jugs of water and blue chins. And then did it again the next night. Their women were, of course, very tolerant, smiling sweetly between gritted teeth as they jabbed their rolled courgettes with cocktail sticks.



FACT FILE

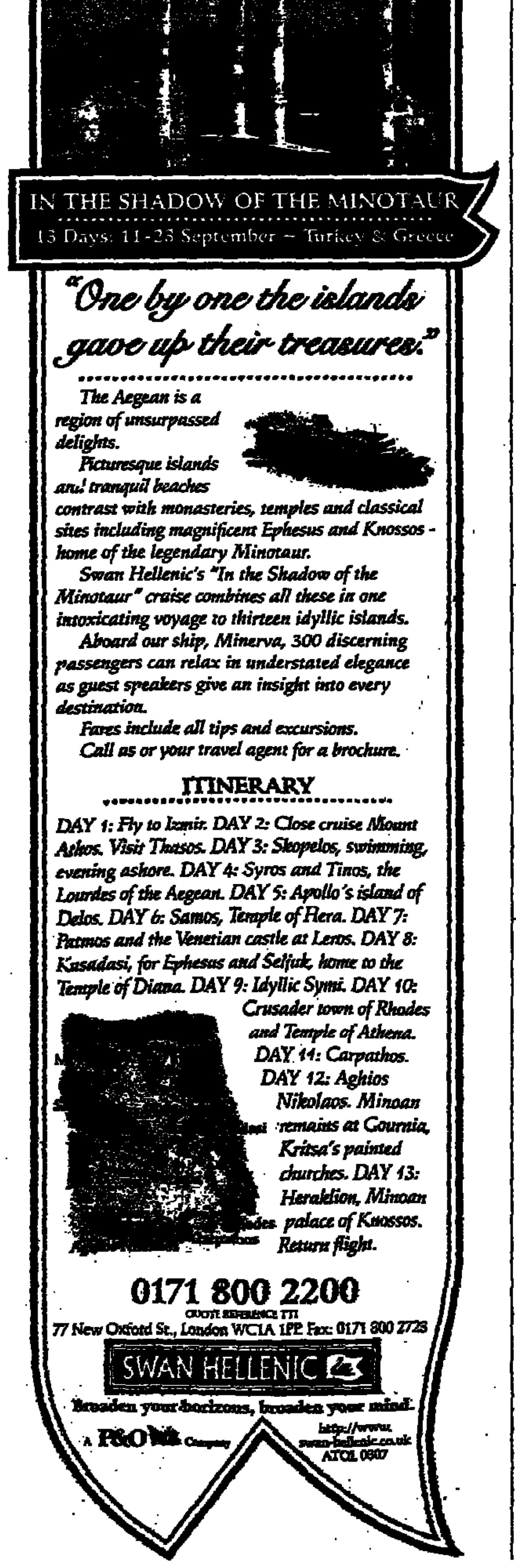
■ Italian Cookery Weeks, PO Box 2482, London NW10 1HW *(0171-401 8763/0181-208 0112)*. Courses are held in *Umbria between* May 11 and July 29 and in Puglia between Aug 24 and Oct 2. There are 16-20 places available each week and group and single bookings are welcome. The cost is £1,055pp, including return flights from London, seven nights' accommodation, food and wine, a one-day excursion, airport transfers in Italy (or £925 excluding flights).



Recipe for success: cookery enthusiasts listen attentively as a guest chef shows them the tricks of the trade, using ingredients they bought themselves

WORLD PICTURES

Lecce's many charms include a splendid rococo cathedral



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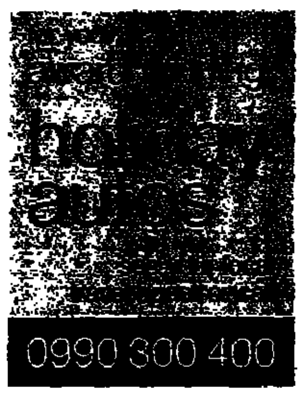

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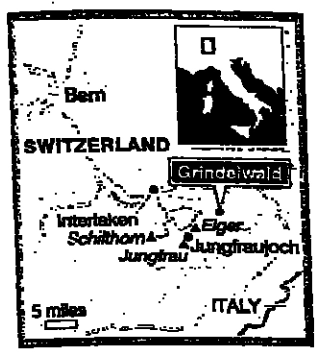
Switzerland: Shaken but not stirred, the skiing village of Grindelwald once played host to James Bond

One more gluhwein before I hit the slopes



WORLD PICTURES

Kleine Scheidegg, high above Grindelwald, is based at the foot of the Eiger and is the centre for more than 98km of ski runs; it also accommodates many a cosy gluhwein bar

For a weekend skiing with a touch of class you cannot beat the Swiss mountain village resort of Grindelwald. Tucked between the feet of the Eiger, Jungfrau and Wetterhorn mountains, Grindelwald and the surrounding area have more than 270km of ski runs. These include the slopes of the Jungfrau, Mount First, Männlichen and, 30 minutes' drive away, the mighty Schilthorn. It also offers skiers of all levels plenty to choose from — not to mention stunning views, fine hotels and enjoyable après-ski.

Last year saw the start of the Swiss airline Air Engiadina's flights from London's City Airport to Bern. This allows you to depart from Docklands in London at 8.05am and arrive in Bern in under two hours. Another hour's drive to the hotel in Grindelwald, and you can be on the slopes by just after 1pm.

The resort has a selection of places to stay but if you want to spoil yourself the five-star Grand Hotel Regina is a must. Situated across the street from the Jungfrau railway station, the starting point for many spectacular excursions through the region, the hotel enjoys a central position in the village. It also has a colourful history (former guests include the Beatles, Margaret Thatcher and a "canaveral" of Nasa astronauts) and a splendid restaurant — I recommend the bouillabaisse.

The people of Grindelwald pride themselves on the region's outstanding natural beauty and a key to this clean, pollution-free environment is the Jungfraubahnen, a cog railway that runs the 12km (straight through the Eiger and Mönch mountains) to the Jungfraujoch, Europe's highest railway station at about 11,333ft above sea level. Here you will find the Sphinx meteorological station, Ice Palace and restaurant as well as views across the awesome Aletsch glacier. The glacier looks pristine and deceptively inviting but temperatures can drop to -20C.

Two stops below the Jungfrau summit, 40 minutes above Grindelwald, is Kleine Scheidegg, the centre for all ski activity on the Jungfrau. Based at the foot of the notorious Eiger, Kleine Scheidegg is the hub for more than 98km of ski runs and a colourful encampment for many a glühwein bar. This is vital to warm the cockles and to supply that essential courage only the Dutch know so well.

A 30-minute drive from Grindelwald and then 30 minutes again in a four-stop cable-car and you arrive at the Schilthorn summit. At 9,900ft above sea level is the restaurant made famous for its role in the James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. Taking lunch in the solar-powered, revolving restaurant, which moves through 360 degrees in one hour, affords majestic views over Mont Blanc, the Bernese Alps and the Black Forest on Germany's central plain. Naturally, I chose a vodka martini for my aperitif.

Views from the Eiger

Shaken but not stirred, intrepid skiers can set forth on an excellent black run through a testing field of moguls that starts just outside the restaurant. After a mile or so the moguls disappear and merge into the gentler slopes of Birg, the next cable-car stop down from the Schilthorn, which provides calmer skiing.

The slopes on the Schilthorn, all 50km of them, open at 9.30am but beginner and intermediate skiers will find the skiing here a little more challenging than on the Jungfrau. The only drawback to the Schilthorn is the T-bar lift at the bottom of the Engetal run beneath Birg. It is more demanding than the ski down and calls for better technique. As on the Jungfrau, ski-lifts close at 4.30pm.

The après-ski in Grindelwald includes the usual collection of shops, bars, restaurants and clubs. The Old Spotted Cat club (turn right out of the Grand Hotel Regina and walk 500 yards up the main street) opens early and closes late, providing skiers with the chance to dance away any remaining energy until the small hours.

One activity that must be attempted is the Bussalp sledge-run every Sunday evening. The organisers provide the sledges and coaches leave from Grindelwald's central square, next to the ice sculptures, between 7.30pm and 9pm. After a traditional and amply fortified fondue, the hardy travellers straddle their mounts and sledge the four miles back to Grindelwald.

It takes a good 45 minutes to get down, leaving plenty of time to absorb the views of drifting Alpine snow, cloud-busting spruces and village lights twinkling in the valley below. Or you can simply fall off your sledge every 100 yards in fits of uncontrollable laughter. But do take care that you do not collide with any velogemels. These are wooden bicycle-like devices that have ski-runners in place of wheels. They are a Swiss method of winter transport, unique to the area. Like a long-weekend's skiing in Grindelwald, they are great fun but gone in the twinkling of an eye.

PERRY CLEVELAND-PECK

Grindelwald: glorious

FACT FILE

- The author was a guest of The Leading Hotels of the World. For reservations call 0800 181 123 (toll free). At the Grand Hotel Regina (0041 36 54 54 55) prices start from £197 per night for a double room without breakfast. An "Alpine Adventure" stay (minimum of two nights) costs £233 per night for a double room including breakfast, one evening meal and an excursion to Mount First.
- Air Engiadina (0345 666777) flights from City Airport to Berne cost £189 weekday return, £209 at weekends.
- Ski passes for five days cost £102. Ski hire, arranged by the hotel, from £68 for five days.
- Grindelwald Tourist Office (0041 36 54 12 12).

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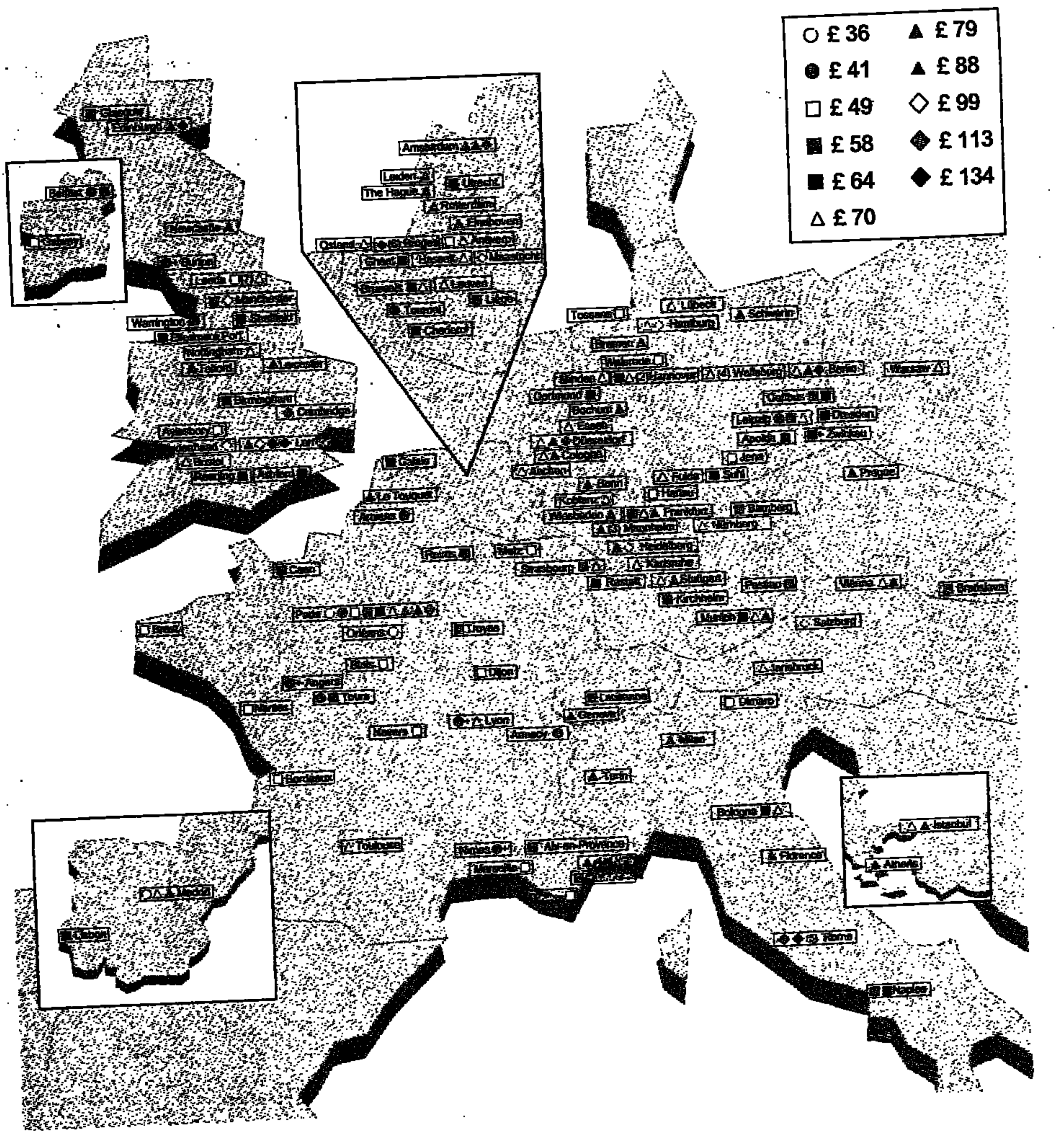

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JILL CRAWSHAW'S
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

Fantasies in Marrakesh

A CAMEL, a mini-maze, swinging beds and an olive press to make your own oil are just a few of the extras that come with CV Travel's (0171-589 0132) exotic offerings in Marrakesh, Morocco. The villa, the Verger de L'Etoile Filante in an oasis of palms just outside the city, is an eccentric 1,001 nights fantasy of nooks and crannies, salons and terraces, a yellow garden with lemon trees, grapefruit and yellow flowers, blue and white gardens and mosaic pool. Two cooks prepare Moroccan and international dishes, and staff will help guests cope with the melee of Marrakesh. The villa sleeps up to 16 and costs £5,250 per week.

Beside a 20-mile lake near Ouarzazate and part of a golf club development (a favourite game with the King), Kasbah du Lac is a villa well placed for trekking, riding in the Atlas Mountains and exploring the desert area of Zagora. It costs from £1,000 per week for ten people.

Among CV Travel's other new properties, Torre Trasita (pictured, right), perched above the Amalfi coast at Positano, is a circular 14th-century Saracen tower converted to three apartments each costing from £405 per week, plus fares.

Faster tracks

WORK on the first Fr17 billion phase of the TGV-Est high-speed railway line from Paris to Alsace will start early next year with the 270-kilometre section to Vandières, south of Metz, due for completion in 2004. This will reduce the present four-hour journey from Paris to Strasbourg to two hours 30 minutes, Reims to 45 minutes and Nancy and Metz to one hour 30 minutes. The TGV-Est will also bring journey times between Paris and Frankfurt down to three hours 40, to Munich to four hours 50 and Berlin to six hours 30.

Dubrovnik day

THE first British carrier to operate to Dubrovnik airport since 1991 is the charter airline Palmair (01202 299299). It will fly there from Bournemouth on March 5 for a special day trip costing £159 to include a guided tour of the city. Flight time is three hours.

I found it a heartening experience to walk the city's mellow walls recently to check on restoration work of damage suffered during the siege between October 1991 and May 1993 (on December 6 alone, 600 shells fell on the city): the shrapnel holes in the Stradun, one of the world's finest high streets, are now undetectable, with roofs, fountains and façades restored and many hotels up and running. Palmair will also offer week-long holidays in Dubrovnik in September from £399 half-board at the Hotel Excelsior.

Greek treks

MOUNTAIN biking in the Mani, river trekking, walking, wading, swimming and canyoning (abseiling past waterfalls) in the southern Pindos, and exploring lesser-known islands by rubber inflatable, are among the adventure holidays in off-the-beaten-track Greece offered by Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499). These are run in conjunction with Trekking Hellas, founded by Greek mountain guides ten years ago, the first Greek agency to specialise in adventure tourism.

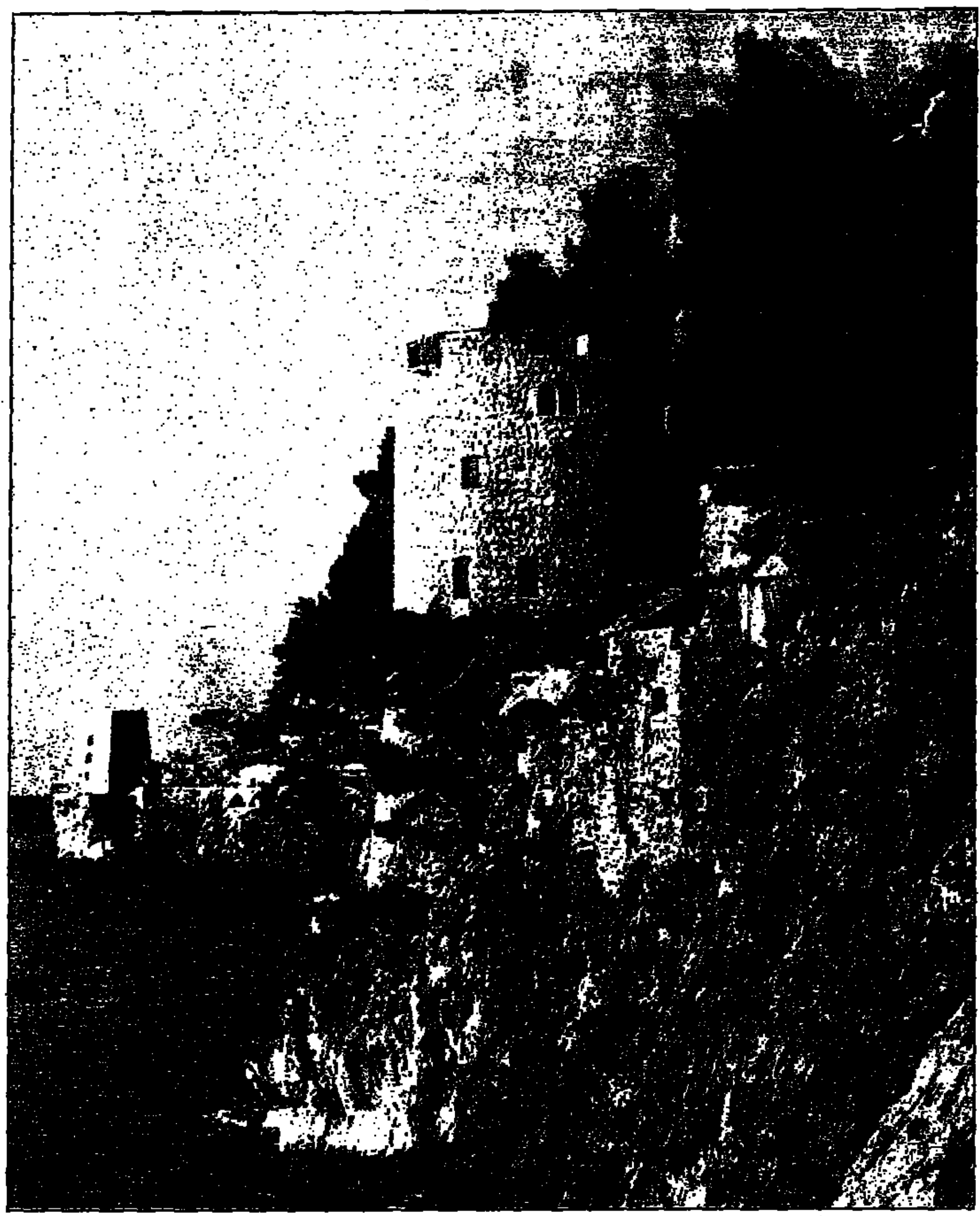
A week-long Zodiac Adventure explores home waters of the legendary Odysseus around Ithaca, Meganissi and Kalamos, with three nights camping on more remote islands. The trip, including flights and half-board, costs £675 and can be combined with other Greek holidays.

Stay in touch

"CAN'T make Delhi", "Let's meet in Beijing", "Need more money" — a system of keeping in touch with family and friends travelling the world is offered by Travellers' Connections (0181-286 3065). Subscribers are allocated their own numbers and security codes giving access to their own mailbox to collect voice messages left by relatives and friends. Normal telephones can be used, and the cost of the mailbox is £15 for one month, up to £75 for a year.

Classic cars

AMONG the festivities to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Monaco and the Grimaldi dynasty, classic cars will race through Monte Carlo on the Grand Prix circuit a week before the big race on May 11. Past winner Stirling Moss is to drive in the race for cars of 1954-1960 vintage, and other races will feature the cars that carried Graham Hill to five wins.


Torre Trasita, a 14th-century Saracen tower near Positano, now converted into three apartments

Spring trips

BARGAIN prices from March to the end of May from Kuoni's Limited Editions (01306 740500) include five nights B&B in Sri Lanka for £389 (the rainy season starts around the end of April): seven nights in Cancun, Mexico, for £449 and seven nights in Luxor, Egypt, from £299 B&B.

Horse work

HORSE-DRAWN caravan holidays for two people through Ireland's Kerry countryside cost from £265 per week per person including ferry crossing, with any additional passengers going free. Food for the horse is extra, about £10 per beast.

A one-week Shannon River self-drive cruise for two costs from £235 per person, again with additional passengers going free. Fuel is extra. Both from Cresta Holidays (0990 561814).

Egyptian opera

VERDI'S *Aida* is to be performed opposite the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Luxor, Egypt, October 12-19. The price of tickets for the opera will be from £94-£188, except for the opening night when they cost £125-£188. Reservations from the Cairo Opera House (00 202 342 0601). For further information telephone the Egyptian Tourist Office in London (0171-493 5282).

Do it yourself

FORTY-EIGHT largely self-catering properties in England and Wales are offered in a special brochure from the YHA (01727 845047). Many are on the coast, others are located in the countryside or cities. A family of four can have a week's stay at Conwy in North Wales for a total of £231, while two nights in a hostel near St Paul's in London will cost £149, including breakfast. YHA membership is necessary.

Rough guides and smooth

The latest guidebooks offer advice on everything from caterpillars to yak milk

Guidebooks are fluttering down like autumn leaves in Vallombrosa. In fact, Vallombrosa (just outside Florence and praised by Milton, whom I have just quoted) comes into *Walking and Eating in Tuscany and Umbria*, an excellent practical guide to routes and local food by two energetic walkers, James Lasdun and and Pia Davis (Penguin, £8.99).

The *Rough Guide* series has spread its wings recently, with new or revised books on *Cyprus* and *Vietnam* (£9.99 each), *Nepal*, *Hawaii*, *Peru* and *Guatemala & Belize* (all £10.99): *Kenya* and *Zimbabwe & Botswana* (both these with a wildlife guide in colour, at £11.99) and a fat volume on *India* at £14.99.

This series has always provided the smooth as well as the rough. It gives expert advice on cheap ways of travelling, but does not miss out on possibilities of greater comfort, and is thorough and accurate on history and art, assuming that all its readers want that. A good example is Greg Ward's account, in the new volume on Hawaii, of the recent "Polynesian Renaissance" of the canoe, with boats going again between the islands with the blessing of Maori elders.

Peru (£10.99) also appears, along with *Tunisia* (£10.99), and *Andalucia* and *Laos* (£9.99 each), in another good series of slightly earlier vintage, the *Footprint Handbooks*. These are sturdy hardbacks, generally more traditional in approach than the *Rough Guides* but crammed with reliable information. In *Andalucia* Rowland Mead includes not only the Holy Week processions in Seville, but also the processions of poisonous-haired caterpillars which sometimes cross the roads and tracks in spring, with advice on what to tell the chemist if you happen to touch one.

A successful series in the past few years has been the *Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kits*. Newly published is a revised edition of its volume on *Egypt* (£11.99), with up-to-date information on the tombs and other archaeological sites that tourists go to Egypt to see, and an illustrated survey of the local gods and goddesses.

Lonely Planet also publishes *Language Survival Kits*, additions to which include a *Nepali Phrasebook*, *Ukrainian Phrasebook* and *Malay Phrasebook* (£3.99 each). You can ask how to buy yak's milk in Nepal, and learn to say "I am a postgraduate" in Ukraine. There is also a *Rough Guide Phrasebook of Vietnamese* (£3.50), which will enable you to order snails cooked with spices and banana. Travellers want to get the most out of their holidays these days.

This Way Travel Guides are short, pocket-size books in, as they say, "sunny yellow" covers. There is a new one on *Sardinia*, cheap and cheerful at £2.99. The travel publisher Brandt has brought out a new edition of *Australia and New Zealand by Rail* by Colin Taylor (£10.95). This is a comprehensive account of the rail network, with suggested itineraries through, for example, the Queensland rainforests or past the canyons of the Blue Mountains. It also lists all the special cheap passes, such as the Westrail Premier Discovery Pass (which is not valid, we are carefully informed, for the special Wildflower coach tours).

Such amenities were unknown to the users of the books described in Alan Sillitoe's *Leading The Blind: A Century of Guidebook Travel, 1815-1911* (Papermac, £9). From Baedeker, Murray and other guidebooks, Sillitoe has put together a delightful picture of travel in those years, with such contemporary tips as that in small Swiss hotels: "Wine is often a source of much vexation. The ordinary table wines are sometimes so bad that the traveller is compelled to drink those of a more expensive class, which indeed is the very aim and object of the landlord." This observation may still be true today.

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Britain: Weekend breaks to Robin Hood country and the city of Charles Rennie Mackintosh

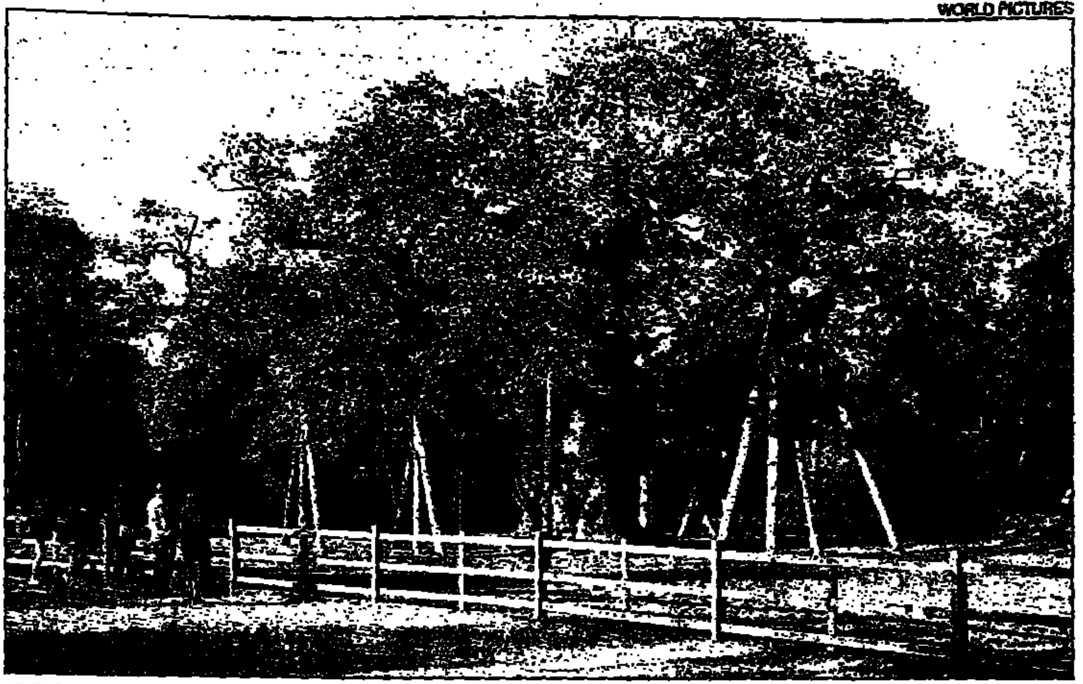
Merry men in tights

For one who has not drawn a breath, never mind a longbow, in 700 years, Robin Hood has a bigger following now than when there was just himself, his merry men and Maid Marian.

In our hero's day, Sherwood Forest would have been on the doorstep of our central Nottingham hotel. But the centuries have taken their toll on the greenwood, and one of the best places to see it now is at the visitor centre near the village of Edwinstowe, about ten miles north of the city.

Sherwood, the legendary home of Robin Hood, was once one of England's great royal hunting grounds and the visitor centre is in the last remaining part of the old forest. An exhibition, *The Legend of Robyn Hode and Mery Scherewode*, sets the scene and a nature centre shows why the forest is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

A small charge for the exhibition includes prize draw questionnaires to amuse the children on the 20-minute waymarked trail to the Major Oak, a majestic medieval specimen reputed to be Robin's favourite hiding place. It is now propped up to support its overarching branches and fenced off to protect its roots from visitors' feet.


WORLD PICTURES

Major Oak, a majestic medieval tree that was reputed to be Robin Hood's favourite hiding place

The centre has an open-air woodland theatre with an ever-changing programme. On the day we visited, Bill Brookman, a man in tights, was presenting *Robin Hood Meets the Cosmos*, a frenetic interpretation of the outlaw tale placing the legend in the context of life, the universe and just about everything. The children loved him. The grown-ups eventually loved him, too, once they cast off their inhibitions and threw themselves into their impromptu starring roles.

At St Mary's church in Edwinstowe, Robin is said to have wed Marian. A few miles to the south, in the hillside cemetery of Blidworth parish church, is the gravestone of Will Scarlett, while at Papplewick church stands the ancient yew from which Robin cut his first bow and Allen-a-Dale got his true love.

The city of Nottingham itself has much to offer the visitor — much more, in fact, than can be crammed into the longest of long weekends. As many of the attractions are within a few minutes' walk of the city centre, it is advisable, especially for families with young children, to select a central location.

We found the Royal Moat House ideally situated and comfortable, with four restaurants. Nottingham City Council's explorer pass allows discounted admission to five of the city's most popular attractions. Staying with the outlaw trail, we visited The Tales of Robin Hood on Maid Marian Way. Here, high-tech transporter cars take one back 700 years to relive the legend in sight, sound and smell.

Afterwards, you can try your hand at archery as you "shoot the sheriff", or watch a short film that tries to unravel Robin's real identity.

Just around the corner, at the top of Friar Lane, stand the medieval gates to Nottingham Castle, which is not really a castle at all but a fine 17th-century ducal mansion built on the site of the original Norman fortress and commanding spectacular views. The building now houses one of the finest museums and art galleries in the East Midlands. Tours are recommended of Mortimer's Hole, a steep cave through the sandstone rock beneath the museum.

The entrance to the most fascinating glimpse of the city's past is to be found in the modern bustle of the Broad Marsh shopping centre, whose bright lights give way to the cool gloom of the Caves of Nottingham beneath its foundations.

This warren of man-made caves, last used as a wartime air-raid shelter, were saved by local voluntary groups when the shopping centre was built. The caves were widely used as pub cellars, the constant temperature (14C) being ideal for storing barrels of beer. The pillar caves are the most impressive, dating from 1250 and containing the remains of Britain's only underground tannery.

Nearby, in a restored chapel in the historic Lace Market area, is the Lace Hall. Audiovisual presentations and demonstrations of lace-making on a 100-year-old working machine bring to life the story of lace and Nottingham's role in the textile revolution.

In the neighbouring former 19th-century courthouse and county gaol is "Condemned! ... at the Galleries of Justice", a grim flog 'em and hang 'em tour likely to satisfy the most ardent devotee of crime and punishment, from a re-enactment of a true 19th-century show trial down to the sandstone cave cells known as "the pits".

It was the grown-ups who shuddered the most at the menacing jailer, not the children, who thoroughly enjoyed clambering up the steps to the gallows in the claustrophobic exercise yard. Lying under the flagstones were those who, in this yard, had seen their last glimpse of the sky. And Robin Hood thought *he* had a hard time with the Sheriff of Nottingham.

PATRICK HANLON

NOTTINGHAM FACT FILE

- *The author was a guest of the Nottingham Royal Moat House, Wollaton Street, Nottingham NG1 5RH (01159 369988). Double en suite room from £120 per night; breakfast £9.95 per person. Weekend rate (two nights B&B to include Saturday): £47 per person; "Robin Hood" offer, subject to availability: £29.50 per person B&B.*
- How to get there: British Rail inquiries for Nottinghamshire: (0345 484950). East Midlands International Airport (01332 852852) is 14 miles away.
- Other places of interest: Newstead Abbey, Newstead Abbey Park (01623 793557). Ancestral home of Lord Byron, containing his possessions, manuscripts and first editions in period rooms; 200 acres of parkland.
  The World of Robin Hood, Haughton, near Retford. Relive medieval history in sound and vision, medieval village, film sets from *Robin Hood — Prince of Thieves*.
  D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, Eastwood (01773 763312). Furnished appropriately to the time of the Lawrence family's occupation; adjacent craft centre.
- *City of Nottingham: Tourism Section, Nottingham City Council, Castle Gate House, 24-30 Castle Gate, Nottingham NG1 7AT (01159 483500)*

RHS

Keen young followers of Robin Hood and his group of outlaws seek inspiration from his statue

---

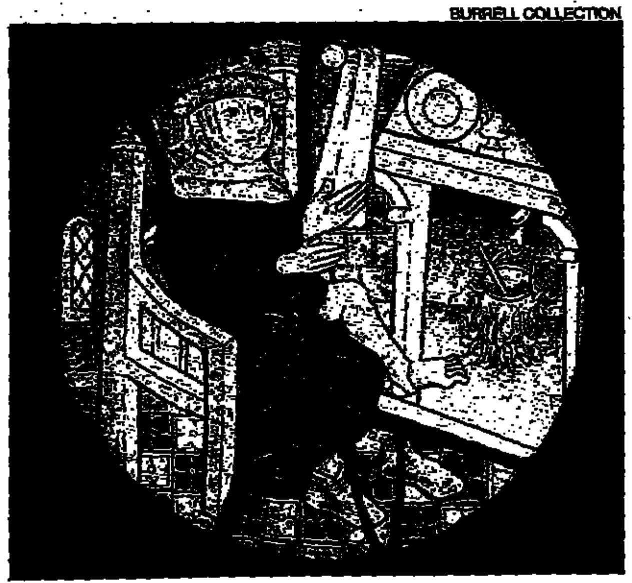
Zen and the art of Glasgow

Ten years ago Glasgow was all Gorbals and tenements in most people's minds, but since its stint as European City of Culture it has come to represent museums, music, galleries, good food and the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. "First time in Glasgow?" our first cabbie asked, as he took us from station to hotel. "You'll like it."

The next cabbie, who took us to the Ubiquitous Chip, one of 11 Glasgow restaurants in the *Good Food Guide*, was just as proud of his city. "Don't those buildings look magnificent, all cleaned up and floodlit? That's the University on your left, or I should say Glasgow University because we've got three ... that's Kelvingrove Park, which has got two art galleries ..."

I got happily lost in the Ubiquitous Chip's wine list, which includes three single-spaced pages of single-malt whiskies and what seemed like 1,000 wines. My Aberdeen Angus steak was sublime, and my partner's monkfish was huge. Cuisine and culture were obviously going to be the themes of this weekend's visit, but with almost 40 entries in the *Glasgow Galleries Guide*, two days would give us no more than a toe-dip.

The Burrell Collection was donated to the city by the shipowner Sir William Burrell (1861-1958), who began buying in his teens and was still at it when he was 96. He accumulated 8,000 objects, most of which are now on show in a stunning purpose-built building in Pollok Park in the south-west of the city. There are Persian carpets, Rodin sculptures including *The Thinker*, prints by Rembrandt, paintings by Cézanne, Degas, Manet and Millet, some fine Egyptian heads and reliefs, and a display of stained glass that goes back to the 12th century. And, as with all Glasgow's museums, admission is free, as are guided tours. Other cities take note.


BURRELL COLLECTION

A stained-glass window from the Burrell collection

More free culture but not a free lunch at the Willow Tea Rooms designed by Mackintosh above Henderson's the Jewellers in Sauchiehall Street. Mirrored walls make the small room look larger, but Mackintosh's high-backed silver chairs also make it look crowded. And it is for much of the time, so be prepared to queue on the stairs while you await your tea and fancies.

The St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art opened in 1993 with claims to be the only religious museum in the world. It looks at the way all faiths affect both art and daily life, from Salvador Dali to the Dalai Lama. Named after the city's patron saint, it stands in front of the cathedral and opposite the oldest house in Glasgow, the 1471 Provand's Lordship, also open to visitors.

Some of the work has been specially commissioned, such as a delightful statue of the Hindu elephant god Ganesh, made in Bangalore. The multi-denominational nature is not to everyone's taste, as a glance at the comments people are invited to leave indicates. One asks that Ganesh be moved away from the influence of nearby Christian exhibits, to which someone else scribbles: "But that's the whole point!" A visitor from Athens asks where is the Orthodox faith, though most comments are of the "profound experience" variety. I found it just that.

Step through to the gallery devoted to religious life and you are confronted by a horrific dancing skeleton, made for the Mexican Day of the dead. This gallery deals with the way different religions deal with our journey through life, from birth via courtship and marriage to death and the after-life. Stunning black and white photographs confront us with images of religious warfare, of Northern Ireland and the Holocaust.

Upstairs is a gallery devoted to religion in Scotland, and a large window looks down on Britain's only Japanese Zen garden. This blissfully peaceful scene has rippling patterns of stone which lead the eye to Glasgow Cathedral, largely built in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Alongside is the city's Necropolis, a hillside tumble of tombs and crosses. I should have explored more but the rain was drizzling and my cultural coffers were full for the day. It was time to get back to Scottish cuisine and a supper of salmon mousse and venison steaks at One Devonshire Gardens, yet another of Glasgow's culinary shrines.

But the last word goes to the cabbie who dropped us at the station: "People expect Glasgow to be a rough old place but I've yet to meet a visitor who hasn't been pleasantly surprised by what we've got to offer."

MIKE GERRARD

● *The author was a guest of the Glasgow Tourist Board.*

GLASGOW FACT FILE

- Where to stay: Malmaison, 278 West George Street (0141-221 6400). Small and stylish. Double room £80 per night; suite £110.
  One Devonshire Gardens (0141-339 2001). Small and deluxe. Double room costs £165 midweek, £125 at weekends.
- Where to eat: The Ubiquitous Chip, 12 Ashton Lane (0141-334 5007). Open daily.
  The Willow Rooms, 217 Sauchiehall Street (0141-332 0521).
- What to visit: The Burrell Collection, 2060 Pollokshaws Road (0141-649 7151). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm.
  The St Mungo Museum, 2 Castle Street (0141-553 2557). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm.
  Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow, 82 Hillhead Street (0141-330 5431). Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm. Includes a reconstruction of Mackintosh's former home at 78 Southpark Avenue (closed at lunchtime). Also fine Whistler collection.
- Glasgow Tourist Information Centre, 39 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2ER (0141-204 4480).

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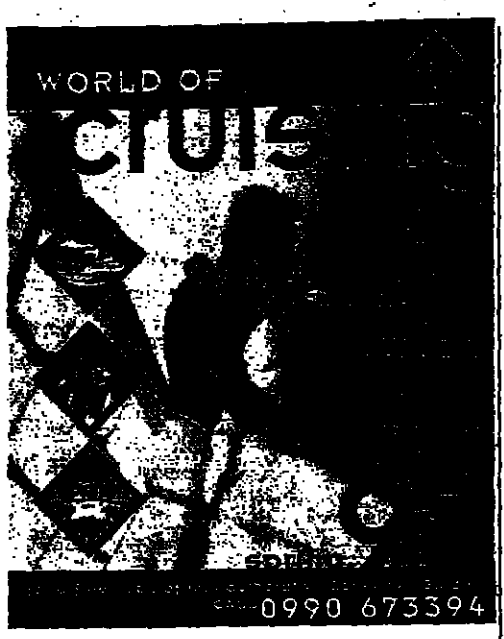

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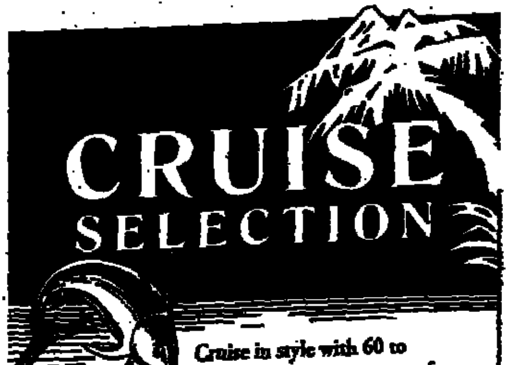

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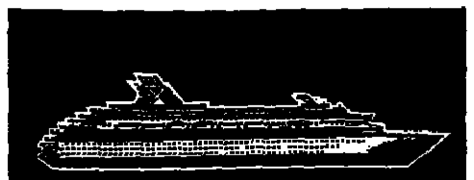

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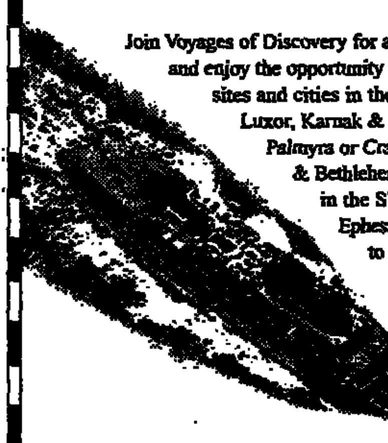

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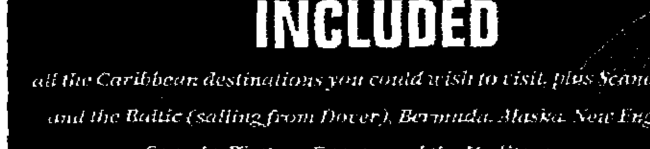

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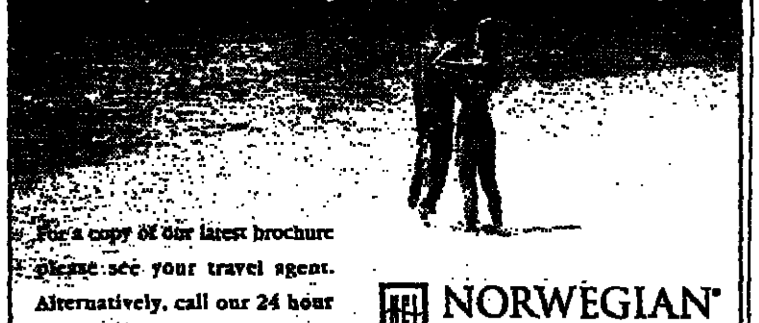

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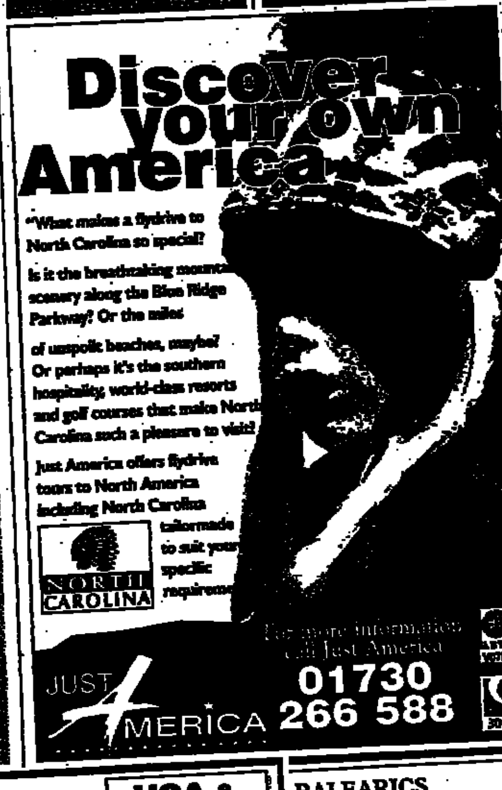

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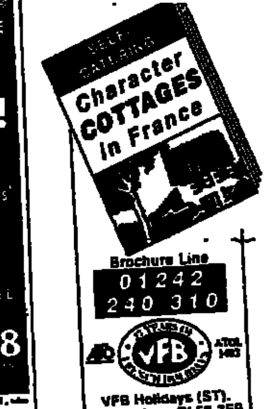

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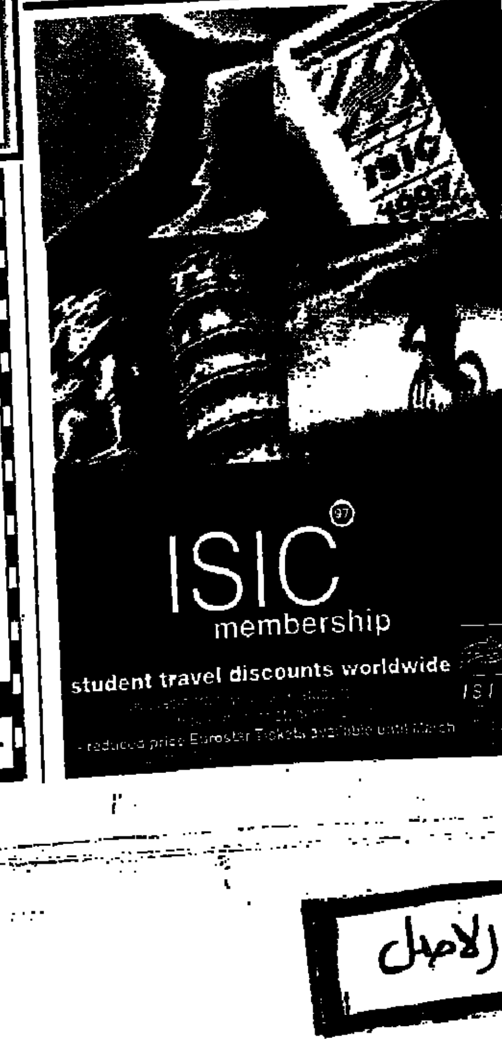

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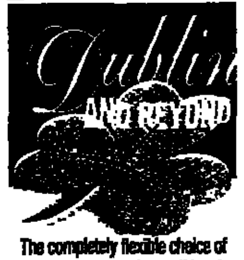

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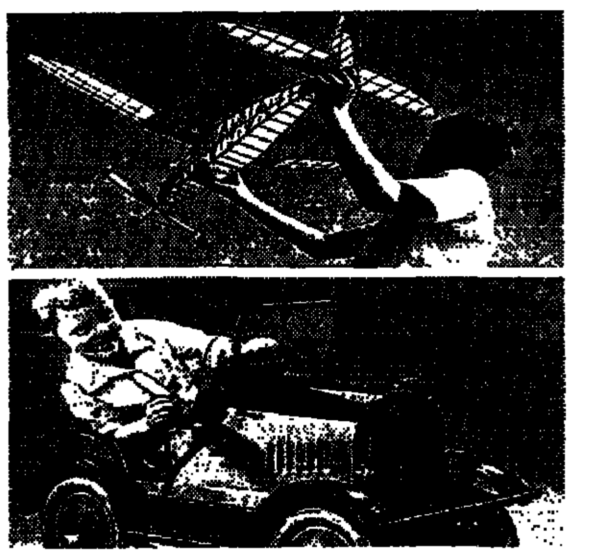

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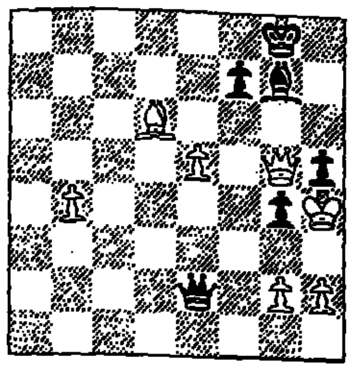
CHESS

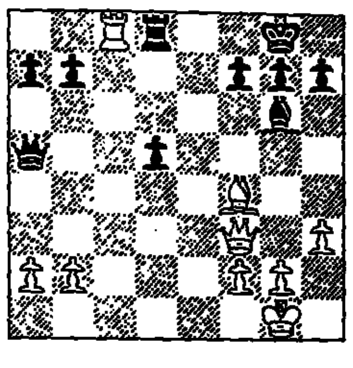
by Raymond Keene

I published this first position on October 26 last year. It is from the game Prazak-Witkowski, Tarnov 1979. Can you spot White's neat move, which brought the game to a successful conclusion for him?



Solution: 1 Bf8
Mr Francis of Essex wonders why Black cannot now force mate starting with 1 . . . Qf2+. This would lead to mate if White now played 2 g3, allowing 2 . . . Qxh2, but 2 Kxh5 leaves Black defenceless.

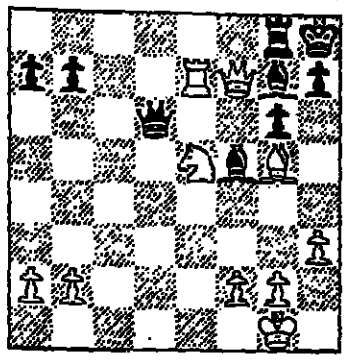
The second position was set as a Winning Move on June 27 last year. It is from the game Karpov-Timman, Amsterdam 1991. White would like to play 1 Bc7, forking queen and rook, but Black can then reply 1 . . . Qe1+. How can White, to play, improve on this variation?



Solution: 1 b4! Qb6 2 Bc7 Rxc8 3 Bxb6 axb6 4 Qxd5, and White, with the advantage of queen against rook and bishop, went on to win.

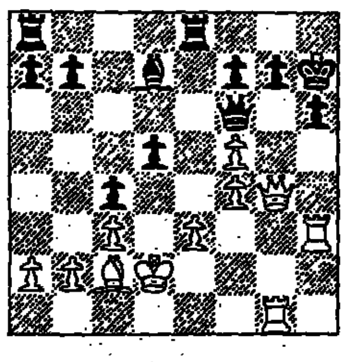
Mr Mukherjee of Calcutta now tries to improve on White's play with 1 Qc3 Qb6 2 Qe3 with the ideas 2 . . . Qxe3 3 Rxd8+ and 2 . . . Qf6 3 Qe8+. However, 2 Qe3 is met by 2 . . . Rxc8 — and Black will emerge a rook ahead.

The next position to cause comment was from the game Morozevich-Adianto, Amsterdam 1996, the Winning Move for October 18. Black had already given up before this position arose. White, to play, has two attractive ways to win. Can you spot either, or indeed both?



Solution: 1 Qxf5 leaves Black without a reasonable reply. Equally good is 1 Qxg7+! Rxg7 2 Re8+ Rg8 3 Nf7+ Kg7 4 Nxd6, with an extra piece. Dr Sarrag of Glasgow has spotted a third route to victory for White, with 1 Bh6. If now 1 . . . Qd1+ 2 Kh2 Bxe5+ 3 f4! and Black will be mated. 1 . . . Qf6 is met by 2 Qxf6 Bxf6 3 Nf7 mate. Black's best is 1 . . . Qxe5 2 Rxe5 Bxe5, but after 3 Qxb7, White is winning easily.

Finally, Paul Hatvany of Wiltshire has sent me this remarkable missed opportunity from a game of his against Daniel Awdry.



Here White considered at length the move 1 Qxg7+, but decided against it. In fact it would have led to a brilliant win, e.g. 1 Qxg7+ Qxg7 2 f6+ Qg6 3 Bxg6+ fxg6 4 Rxh6+ Kg8 (4 . . . Kxh6 5 Rh1+ mating) 5 Rgxg6+ Kf7 (5 . . . Kf8 6 Rg7 mating) 6 Rg7+ Ke6 7 f7+ winning.

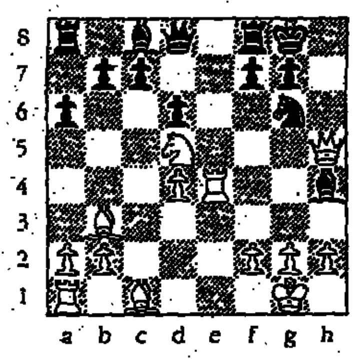
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

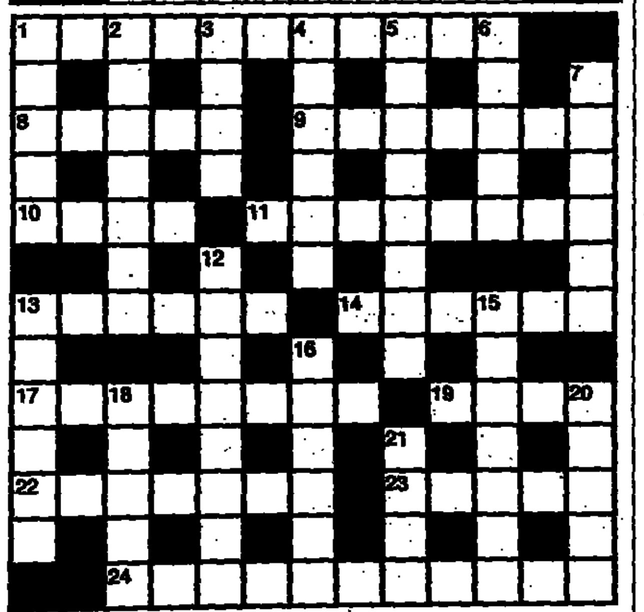
White to play. This position is a possible variation from the game Anand - Ivanchuk, Las Palmas 1996. How does White make the most of his concentration of force around the black king?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct solution drawn on Thursday will receive a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.
Last week's solution: 1 Nf6 (1 ... Bxf6 2 Be4)

Last week's winner: G Stanton, Redditch, Worcestershire.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1024

ACROSS
- 1 Psychological battle (3,2,6)
- 8 W H —, poet (5)
- 9 Mass slaughter (7)
- 10 Crease: animal pen (4)
- 11 Painstaking (8)
- 13 Fuss: trivial objection (6)
- 14 Star group, may be spiral (6)
- 17 Odds-against competitor (8)
- 19 To spring (4)
- 22 Pungent gas, NH_3 (7)
- 23 Of the same value (5)
- 24 A vegetable casserole (11)

DOWN
- 1 Quay (5)
- 2 Danger, revolution emblem (3,4)
- 3 Cravenly avoid (4)
- 4 Greek geometer (6)
- 5 Perpendicular (8)
- 6 Quench (thirst) (5)
- 7 Priest's robing-room (6)
- 12 Single-reed instrument (8)
- 13 Chewy sweet (6)
- 15 In normal way (2,5)
- 16 Composer of eg 12 Quintet, Concerto (6)
- 18 Show reluctance (5)
- 20 Regular rhythmic beat (5)
- 21 Girl's admirer: dandy (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1023
ACROSS: 1 Switch 5 Swig 9 Swaddle 10 Sweden 11 Vehement 12 Lubber 15 Adverb 18 Swan song 20 Swanee 22 Swinish 23 Sway 24 Swarms
DOWN: 2 Wisden 3 Traverse 4 Hedge 6 Wane 7 Grieve 8 Pestle 13 Brassica 14 Obsess 16 Dowses 17 Anthem 19 Amiss 21 Nova

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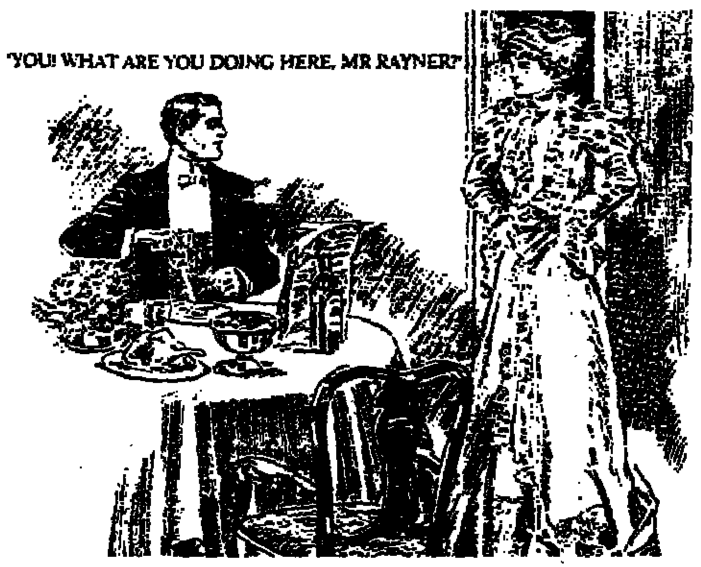
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

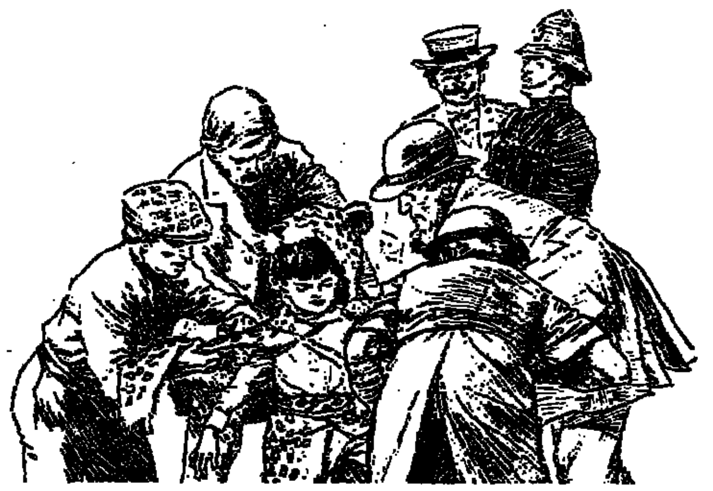
The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 40, Weekend, *The Times*,
1 Pennington Street,
London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 26.



'YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MR RAYNER?'



"It's an old smuggling trick I learnt at Sotheby's"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by D.Till of Leek, Staffordshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ASHRAM
a. A Blackface Tup
b. A Tamil dialect
c. A shrine

DOSSY
a. An open-air bed
b. Neat
c. Money

GOMPA
a. A grandfather
b. A shrine
c. Rice meal

BUCKEEN
a. An aboriginal woman
b. A hind
c. To scrape a ship's bottom

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

YOUR left-hand opponent opens 2NT and your right-hand opponent raises to 3NT. Your partner leads the three of spades and when dummy goes down you judge that the defence's best chance lie in the spade suit. Which card would you play as East in the following two layouts, when declarer plays the 6 from dummy?

(i)
♠3 led ♠Q6 ♠A104

(ii)
♠3 led ♠Q6 ♠A1054

In the first case it is clear to play the 10. From Rule of Eleven you can tell that declarer has three cards higher than the three, so if he has the jack he will always score a trick in the suit. Playing the ten gains against many holdings: eg. if declarer started with K972 your side will pick up three tricks later.

The second case is more awkward: declarer has only two cards higher than the three, but there is room for him to hold say K92. In that case playing the 10 will be best. But with Kxx declarer will normally play the queen from dummy, to make it more difficult for the defence's communications if West has the ace. Where it costs to duck is when declarer has say J9 alone. In general you should win the ace and return the 4, your original fourth-highest.

Now look at the variant in the deal shown at the top of the next column. Try to look only at the West and North hands.

South opens 2NT and North bids 3NT. Dummy plays low on the opening spade, and East wins with the ace. He returns the ten, on which South plays the jack. What should West do? West can play South for J5 of spades, in which case West can take the king and run the spade suit immediately: or West can play South for J95 (and hence East for A104), and duck, hoping East can get in subsequently to return his remaining spade. Which is it to be?

It might appear to be a guess, but the critical point is that, with A104, East would play the ten on the first round, as I've explained above. Hence West should win the king of spades and continue spades.

Notice that with this particular spade holding East has to return the ten, rather than the four. The four would block the suit whenever West has led from K8xxx. That is a good point to remember — whenever East has intermediates which might block the run of the suit he cannot afford the normal return of his original fourth-highest.

Dealer South Love all

West	North	East	South
	♠Q6 ♥J104 ♦QJ106 ♣Q763		
♠K8732 ♥63 ♦984 ♣J52	N W E S	♠A1094 ♥K9872 ♦752 ♣10	
	♠J5 ♥AQ5 ♦AK3 ♣AK984		

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: the three of spades

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

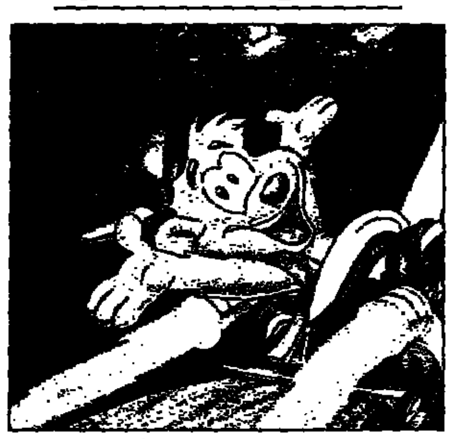
by Tim Wapshott

WHO WOULD expect Dustin Hoffman and John Gielgud to team up for an entrancing educational CD-Rom aimed at five to 11 year-olds? At least, it could be them if you close your eyes for a second. **The Great Word Adventure 1** is hosted by a bear called Howie who speaks in full twitchy and distressed-Dustin Hoffman mode, while the unseen narrator sounds uncannily like British theatre's eldest statesman.

From 7th Level, the Windows CD-Rom looks and plays like a cartoon, with Howie and friends setting off in a spaceship to play 100 largely alphabet and reading-improving games. After signing in, and stipulating their age, users are whisked off with Howie to an elegant library ready for blast off on the zippy exploratory journey. All the games are enticing, the goals get increasingly challenging and, unlike some educational titles, the academic content (supporting National Curriculum key stages 1 and 1) never seems laboured. The graphics and animation effects run like silk and the mix of work and play is balanced perfectly. It couldn't be bettered, even if Messrs Hoffman and Gielgud had been signed up for the voice characterisations. For much older students of English, **Making the Modern** is a handy poetry reference work from the Bookworm Student Library range, imported here by Guildsoft in Plymouth. Highlighting important Romantic works of British poets, from Lord Byron to William Wordsworth, the dual format Mac and Windows CD-Rom offers malleable texts of 125 poems which can be endlessly referenced, navigated, copied, cut and pasted. Some works are also brought to crackling life in short audio readings. Should you have problems tracking down a copy, call Guildsoft on 01752 895100.

In Cyberspace Thirty we asked for poems along love lines to Bill Gates, supernova of the computer age and husband of Mrs Melinda Gates. The hefty postbag proves you to be a poetic lot, even if some of your puns were torturous. Typical of the fine standard received was this entry from Janet Guest of Woking, Surrey:

Bill, please be my Valentine
We'll share The Road Ahead
Delete that young Melinda's file
Then you and I can wed



Games on the Great Word Adventure 1 are great fun and a good teaching aid

My poem's pretty Basic
I don't express myself too well
But Bill you have my Word
That together we'll Excel

Offers of marriage, alongside swipes, came from both sexes. Eric Speilman of Essex, wrote:

I must confess — against my will,
I fell in love with golden Bill.
Your version one, with all its bugs, you sold to 50 million mugs who sent their hard earned cash to you, before you gave them version two.
But not for free — I hear the tills, ring up a lot more dollar bills.
You found the secret to your riches, is selling programmes full of glitches.
So when it came to version five, you were the richest man alive.
But now, dear Bill, I'm in a fix, I can't afford your version six.
Dear Bill, if you would marry me, I could get all your software free.
Please open up, my Gates of Heaven, it surely will be version seven.

The most commonly recurring rhyme was "till" with "Bill", though Gareth Jones, of Windermere, Cumbria, went several steps further in Ode to Bill:

It's all just jealousy, Bill,
of your iron will, Bill.
They rant and rave
about the way you behave,
but we haven't had our fill, Bill.
You promised us the world, Bill,
and yet we wait here still, Bill.
We've suffered Windows '95,
as Apple struggled to survive,
and that's a bitter pill, Bill.
It's a bitter twist of fates, Gates.
That with all your computer mates, Gates,
You can't provide a better,
way to type a letter,
or handle particular dates, Gates.
I gave up my Mac for you Bill,
A better product still, Bill.
But now with several billions,
you're a guru to millions.
We love the ringing of that till, Bill.

Robert Taylor of Surrey, gave Bill's love a millennium ultimatum with his entry:

Are you preparing, my dear Valentine,
the software to keep you forever mine
I don't want to crash
nor lose all my cash
at midnight on 31.12.99

More entries next week. Also to come, details of the winner whose prose wins them a Polaroid digital camera worth £2,650.

"Save buying an expensive printer by taking Polaroids of your document print previews and sending them to people with a small magnifying glass." Top Tip from Graham Patterson of Lytham St Annes, Lancs.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

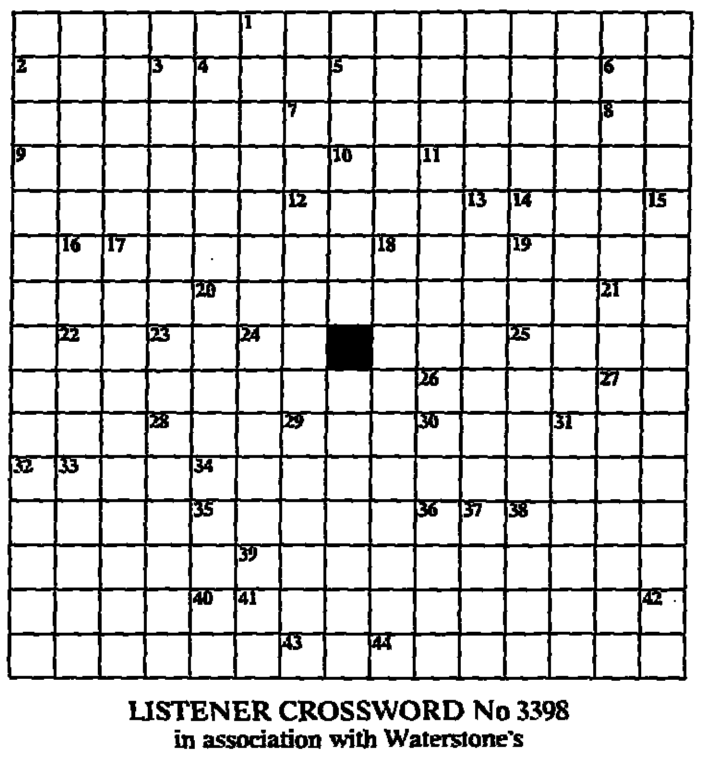
No 3398: All Square by Dimitry

The grid is divided into four identically-shaped pieces arranged around the central square. These pieces may also be arranged in a larger square about a different central square and it was into that larger square that Dimitry originally composed the diagram. Thus, entries may occasionally run out of the diagram as given, only to appear continuing elsewhere.

Numbers given in the grid indicate that the answer to that number clue has one letter in that square, but no distinction is made between Across and Down. Four long unclued entries may be seen to be distinctively laid out vertically in an overlong manner with opposite sides aligned. Eight three-letter entries are clued by one-word definitions in random order and the positions of these are not indicated in the grid. Solvers must mark the divisions between the four pieces of the grid but other bars are not required. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended but does not give three proper names (28, 36, 41, all in *Collins*).

Three-letter words:
Top crime investigator Hill holds antique dagger close

1 We still love Yanks Donna, Brad and Jay (12, three words)
2 Free earth that's between furrows (5)
3 Ascetic Chinese philosophic principle holds nothing good (5)
4 What sounds like severe bore (4)
5 A ——'s wriggling in Red Sea, possibly? (6)
6 Places for warming pitchers of weak drink on plantations (8)
7 He sells story to press: they can offer great riches (12)
8 Viols getting tenor to be visiting musician (5)
9 Small capitals need constructing for set on stage (6)
10 Constituent of detergents can be deadly if left out (5)
11 Gave false impression about president — he's a late starter (7)
12 Terminally morose and dour? Yes, in a way (8)
13 With haring about, this garment's gathering in (4)
14 Cleans teeth without fluorine — some which are missing (6)
15 At court, maintain precedence by power (5)
16 Work hard in Italy to go back? I might! (7)
17 One lying about vein of ore could be held for breaking up rock (12)
18 Oblivious how much gets in of marginal value (7)
19 Laser circling in defensive rings (5)
20 Pay off committee in silence (7)
21 Highland whisky showing pedigree in height of excellence (8)
22 Maiden coming in halts lively dances (6)
23 Lignum could produce this gum initially? (5)
24 Greek vase? Do without one, thanks (5)
25 Carbon in record put back moon's age at one time (5)
26 Friendly Italian island — I'm returning to it (7)
27 Runner up would have no prizes (6)
28 Type type fellow fellow initially initially (6)
29 Half Berber, the Moor (5)
30 Leaders in Islamic mosques and Muslim sultans (5)
31 Glory, nothing less caught by that kingfisher (7)
32 Impertinent fool with yen to follow saint (5)
33 Delay concerning agent turning up (5)
34 News on returning mist in Scotland (4)
35 Usually take power? Yes and no (5)
36 Number one son, native Chinese is returning here perhaps (6)
37 Old units call for attention in months (4)
38 Introductory music like a prelude to begin with (5)
39 Moving artist's profile is ———, perhaps (12)
40 Spanish wines going around in Mediterranean vessels (6)
41 Knight from Turkistan, not this country (7)
42 Capuchin makes a journey endlessly (5)
43 Where lies the makings of Lucretia's rape? ——'s place, possibly (7)
44 Fish covered in sewage smells strongly (8)



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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3398, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, March 6.

W
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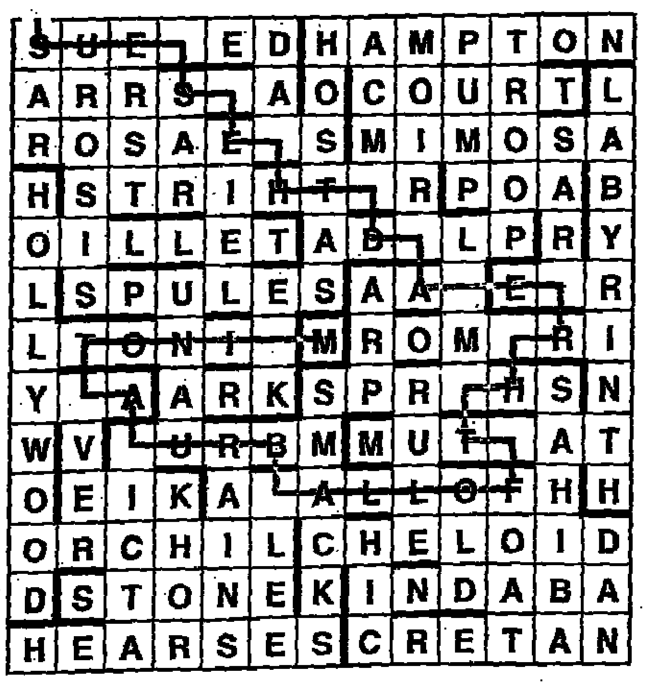

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H	E	A	R	S	E	S	C	R	E	T	A	N

Solution to no 3395
A-maze-ing by The Tall'n

The "keys" (the letters A to G) were to be added to the letters on the other side of locked doors (horizontal or vertical bars) along the path using their numerical values (eg. D added to O gives S). Using the resultant letters, the reverse path from the centre to the entrance (top left) forms the storyline: the MINOTAUR was killed by THESEUS, who then escaped from the maze by following a BALL OF THREAD.
The thematic lights formed three famous mazes: HOLLYWOOD STONE (18d & 51a) is the earliest dateable maze in the British Isles, built in Ireland circa 550AD; the oldest surviving hedge maze in Britain is at HAMPTON COURT (5a & 12a) built in 1690; and the CRETAN LABYRINTH (54a & 13d) was built to house the Minotaur, according to Greek mythology.

The winner is Chris Robson of Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

The five runners up are: Paul Dendy of Clwyd; Chris Hague of London; B.Midgley of Berkshire; Z.Adams of South Croydon; S.Gibbs of Bedford.

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LADIES

ADVENTUROUS, attractive, athletic lady 39, 5'8", blonde, blue eyes, 1 child, WLTM a successful sincere good looking & generous man 38-50 for a loving, romantic & fun relationship. Intelligence & GSOH essential. Photo appreciated. London area. Reply to Box No 3354 ☎ ✍

AMBITIOUS attractive Asian female 29 seeks blue eyed 6 ft+ graduate male 30-36 to share love & laughter, today, tomorrow, and forever after. London/Home Counties. Box No 3414 ☎ ✍

ANDOVER/Salisbury. 25 mile radius. We're all waiting for you at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open 7 days

ANGLOPHILE. Very good looking Dutch (Amsterdam) lady, brunette, 37 (but looking and feeling younger), curvy yet quite slim, 5'5", sensitive, independent yet warm and caring, enjoys the UK, eating out, theatre, cinema, music, museums walks and many other things. WLTM attractive, sincere, generous gentleman (35-52) with a good sense of humour, for friendship and more. Willing to travel and even more. Please Reply to Box No 3436 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

ASIAN Lady In Geneva WLTM sincere gentleman aged 45-50, distinguished, well established in view of a long lasting relationship. Photo to be included in replies. Full info will be given after contact. Please Reply to Box No 3250 ✍

BLUE-EYED angel, tall & leggy, confident & successful seeks tall dark handsome prince, warm & tactile (40's). Photo plse. London based. Box 3345 ☎ ✍

BORED? Dispirited? Attractive (no really) woman, 41 would like to charm you into finding a new mate. Slim, educated & happy, I should like you best if you are 38-50, socially adept & prefer a night in the town to a walk in the country. London. Photo please. Box No 3091 ✍

BRIGHT bubbly brunette seeks warm witty wooer. Attractive petite woman seeks considerate caring man 35-50 N/S for genuine relationship. Photo nec. London/Herts No 3385 ✍

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CAMBRIDGE: Professional lady aged 51 seeks interesting, caring companion for a variety of interests, including theatre, gardening, music. SOH essential. Reply to Box No 3245 ✍

CHEMISTRY is the key but male 50+ must possess far reaching mind, the humour gene & a big heart. Brunette, love animals, coast/country in all weathers, literature, jazz, etc. London/E. Anglia. Photo plse. Box 3237

COTSWOLDS lady Vet, Public School, sensitive, spiritual, slim, caring, naturally pretty, romantic, music, poetry, arts, animals, walking. Values gentle lifestyle, seeks man 45-60, same social background important. Reply Box No 3367 ✍

COUNTRY loving attractive, fair haired, blue eyed, music loving business lady (39) with 8 year old son WLTM a kind, gd looking mature quality n/s gentleman of substance who desires a loving family life & lots of fun. Lincolnshire Bx 3323 ☎ ✍

CUPID'S O.D.d recently: so alone this desirable, romantic London 50s woman hopes to win warm, open, free, male heart with cultivated, stimulating mind and tall body. Bx 3334 ☎ ✍

DID you get a Valentine? Neither did I, so perhaps we can do something about it for next year? Mature lady, early retired: from working class background (yes, we also read The Times!), attractive, lively, warm, with a lot to give if the chemistry is right, seeks courteous gentleman, 55+, tall, n/s, kindly, spontaneous and secure, to share friendship, laughter, life's thrills and spills and a mutual enjoyment of country walks, animals, writing, theatre, dancing and dining, gardening, Rachmaninov, Radio 4 and hopefully a trip to Euro Disney in the Spring. Berks, Bucks, Oxon areas. Photo please to Box No 3455 ☎ ✍

E. SURREY/Sussex/Croydon. Local confidential service for people seeking genuine partners. Call Claire at Elite Introductions 01883 744405

EASTERN/ Persian lady London divorced, attractive young 50, petite, 5'2" fair complexion, affectionate, caring, animal lover. Seeks genuine sincere attractive tall prof man, solvent 45-60, London/Surrey. Recent photo to Box 3163. ✍

ELECTRIC woman artist London/France WLTM caring man c60 to share her joi de vivre. RSVP to Box No 3357 ✍

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

EXETER/Truro/Hants/Wilts Dorset - Caroline Crowther 01179 735877: 24 hours

EXTROVERT, highly educated, prof lady, 40, no ties, living W London & SW France, would love not to spend Valentines Day alone next year. Bx 3340 ☎ ✍

FRENCH brunette, attractive, late 30's, slim, stylish, educated WLTM London based gentleman 39-45 for relationship. Only intelligent, successful & kind N/S man need apply. Photo please to Box No 3378 ✍

GORGEOUS, stylish, sensuous, green eyed n/s blonde. Slim, articulate, VGSOH, with varied interests looking for attractive, accomplished, tall man. 35-45ish with sincerity, also with a sense of humour and optimism. Cheshire Wirral based. Please Reply to Box No 3406 ☎ ✍

GREEN-EYED blonde lady lawyer, 30 seeks fun loving medic with integrity to cure her insomnia. Photo appreciated. London/South Coast. Please Reply to Box No 3327 ✍

GTER MANCHESTER-Surrounding area. Meet that special lady. Call Elite 0161 443 2334

GULLIVER, tired of travelling, sought by Lilliputian lady, 49, to share civilised interests. East Sussex/Kent. Box No 3304 ✍

HAZEL EYES, SOH, business background, attractive, stylish lady, 58, cultural & outdoor interests seeks N/S professional partner, traditional values. Hants/Sussex. Box 3359 ✍

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LATE 40's, London based, intelligent, elegant, curvy, voluptuous blonde WLTM tall (over 6ft) intelligent, caring, successful man (50-65) for genuine lasting relationship. Photo appreciated. Box No 3190 ✍

LAWYER, 39, based London and Northeast looking forward to life beginning. Seeks kind, considerate male to share it with. N/S with GSOH preferred. Please Reply to Box No 3459 ✍

LISTED house & slender widow need male friend London. Please Reply to Box No 3420 ✍

LIVELY, attractive, slim, sporty, 38 yrs old Scottish lass, London based. Educated, adventurous, WLTM a discerning, fit, attractive, soulmate 35-50 with a GSOH & joi d'vivre. Photo please to Box No 3454 ☎ ✍

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MEN behaving badly (24-35) sought by two attractive but bored prof ladies for beer & Twister evenings. (London/ Home Counties). Box No 3412 ☎ ✍

MENTOR wanted by warm hearted, attractive, professional female (Asian), well educated, curvaceous. Likes foreign cultures. Seeks successful, high achiever, any nationality, must be tall, well travelled, passionate, strong yet sensitive, 34+. London/ Home Counties/ W.Mids. Photo please to Box No 3366 ☎ ✍

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PETITE professional lady, brunette, 35 from Hants/Surrey borders, WLTM N/S sporty male 30-40, who likes cinema, food, travel and horses for sincere friendship. Photo appreciated Reply to Box No 3422 ✍

QUICK wit, fun, conversationalist, educated, prof, looks good/great, skis, scuba dives. Seeks man 40"ish. London based. Photo. Box No 3467 ☎ ✍

QUIETLY beautiful, intelligent, creative femme, slim, mid 40's, grad/ prof. Enjoys music, sciences, current affairs over candle lit suppers. Seeks tall, successful healthy soulmate 50-55. Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 3280 ☎ ✍

REDHEAD, bubbly, feisty, attractive, bright, late 30's well travelled seeks man who is not intimidated by a successful woman to share her love of the simple & finer things in life. London based. Photo please. Reply to Box No 3425 ☎ ✍

SAILING, flying, elegant and intelligent blonde who loves good food, laughter, world travel & adventure, seeks active, 40-55 professional man, London area. Photo please. Reply to Box No 3382 ✍

SLENDER feminine lady, mix of music and countrylife seeks similiar blend with sincerity/ depth in n/s 49+ man. London/Surrey.Box 3356 ☎ ✍

LADIES

SOIGNE, feminine, N/S lady adores classical music, opera & arts. Seeks unusual combination of sophistication & sensitivity (49+). London/Home Counties. Photo plse. Box 3349 ☎ ✍

ST ALBANS, (AL) and Luton (LU) postcodes. Call Suzanne at your local Elite office on 01582 831831

STRONG, solvent, tall hunk sought by petite blue eyed dynamo (26) for the next EL AL flight out of London. Photo preferred. Reply Box No 3361 ☎ ✍

STYLISH Intelligent strawberry blonde with a SOH enjoys country/home life, theatre, music, travel. No ties, financially independent own home, based Dublin/London. Seeks intelligent solvent fun loving older man with inner depth for love and romance 50-55ish. Must be able to love Ben my dog also. Ireland/London. Please Reply to Box No 3169 ✍

SULTRY Asian beauty with brains (30) looking for sincere attractive professional man for friendship, possibly romance. Please Reply to Box No 3383 ✍

VERY Attractive well travelled German lady, 32, with Italian appearance & temper WLTM an attractive, sporty, successful man, for a serious relationship. Please send photo. Reply to Box No 3397 ✍

LADIES

WHY does an attractive, intelligent, blonde, blue eyed, Australian, 40 something, medium/ slim build, works medical prof London have to advertise for a soulmate? Because the singles scene is not the ideal way to get to know the real you or me. If you are a 38-50 prof, over 5'10", confident, passionate, solvent, a little arrogant but have a soft centre and love travel, good food and wines, socialising or evenings for 2, music, exercise, sport (skiing etc), sunsets and open fires, please respond with recent photo to Box No. 3418 ☎ ✍

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GENTLEMAN 40something with face that requires ironing, divorced, GSOH, eclectic tastes & interests WLTM lively slim woman under 40 with smooth surfaces. Central Scotland. Please Reply to Box No 3076 ✍

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LADIES

GENTLEMAN 54 years old, early retired, good income, own property, tall sportsman seeking pretty lady, must have no children, maximum age 37. For living together in North Italy. Please Reply to Box No 3069 ✍

GOOD LOOKING assertive, kind hearted, generous, successful gentleman, aged 44 WLTM a very good looking feminine lady under 40 who would wish to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle in a fun one to one relationship. Recent photo and telephone number ensures reply. London/Home counties but willing to travel. Box No 2929 ☎ ✍

GENTLE, caring widower 59, tall & slim, early retired professional man seeks warm interesting woman for lasting relationship. Warwickshire based. Reply to Box No 3058 ✍

IS THIS you? Do you crave excitement? Do you know how to have fun? Do you love champagne? Are you a lady between 21 and 35? Are you looking for someone special? I'm warm, romantic, creative and caring, 28, slim and fit. I know how to laugh, cry and enjoy life - I'm looking for someone special to enjoy it with. I'm Bucks based, but distance is relative. Is it you? Intrigued? Curious? Write to Box No 3125 ✍

GENTLEMEN

ACTIVE male engaged in exciting business seeks help & love from petite pretty female, age 40-55. South/S. West. Box 3447 ✍

ABOUT time you changed your life? Me too! I'm 55, 6ft, fair hair, blue eyes and fit, unpretentious, open and adventurous, N/S. Thames Valley based. Self generated independent means give me time to enjoy interests which include visual arts, antiques, travel, reading, cycling, country walks and stimulating conversation. Slim lady in her 40's with common interests wanting sparkle in her life please reply with photo to Box No 3394 ✍

ABOVE average lifestyle, successful, easy going guy. Independent minded, seeks good natured curvaceous lady 35-45 for wining, dining, travelling, relaxing and a good relationship. London area Bx 3347 ☎ ✍

AFFECTIONATE gentleman, 57, N/S, (Cheltenham area), GSOH, considerate & sporty. Enjoys the good things in life, WLTM a warm, elegant & caring feminine lady 50-60, slim, 5'2"ish, who likes socialising, music, house/garden, theatre, etc. Photo please. Box No 3381 ✍

AFFECTIONATE 40 something seeks attractive, enthusiastic female for weekend walks along SW coastal path. Please reply with photo to Box 3296 ✍

AFFECTIONATE, London based bloke, balanced & secure, seeks female partner for long term growth, probably 40-50. Please Reply to Box No 3254 ✍

AMUSING man, professional, sporty, late 30's seeks attractive fiery, dark haired, dark eyed girl to spoil, pamper, & squander money on. London/ H.Counties. Photo. Box 3368 ☎ ✍

ANDOVER/Salisbury. 25 mile radius. We're all waiting for you at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open 7 days

ATTRACTIVE, 6ft tall, wealthy, senior trader London based, 32 yrs old, Indian/Italian heritage would like to meet attractive 25-33 yrs old female to share the finer things in life with, dining out, theatre etc. Please Reply to Box No 3297 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE 6ft prof man, 38, fit, kind, easy going. Enjoys laughing, alternate therapy, theatre, travel, Yoga. Seeks warm female for fun, friendship, more. London/SE. Box No 3373 ✍

AVON/WILTS. Tall handsome professional gentleman, 37, who enjoys the arts, countryside and living life, seeks slim stylish feminine counterpart to share adventure, pleasure and the future. Nothing ventured nothing gained! Take a chance and reply to Box No 3392 ✍

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COSMOPOLITAN, gentle, educated, healthy fifties man seeks lady, warm, loyal, attractive, preferable age 30-early 40's for a beautiful permanent relationship. Interests include classical music, theatre, books, films, jazz, nature, travel. Photo exchanged/returned. London-SouthEast. Reply Box No 3279 ✍

DISCERNING dominant Aries male, soon 58, early retired with a great fondness of food and wine so no Twiggy. I seek a mobile unencumbered docile N/S lady, who may be free for travel later, to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle in East Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 3326 ✍

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ENJOYING life: in my mid 50s n/s gentleman WLTM lady 40+ for travel, walking, dancing friendship and possibly more. Surrey based. Please Reply Box 3402 ☎ ✍

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Pages 3, 10

THE TIMES

CAR 97

The hunt is on for our top company driver

Page 5

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 1997

Many drivers risk lives by failing to secure their pets, warns **Simon Hacker** in the run-up to Cruft's

Deadly danger of unrestrained dogs

Cages and harnesses are recommended by experts

STEVE HILL/NEWSTEAM

Without a modern, strongly mounted harness, a dog like Vesper would become an unguided missile in a collision

As 20,000 dogs and their loving owners prepare to converge on Cruft's 1997 next month, some bad news: no matter how affectionate and even-tempered your canine friend, as a car passenger it can maim or kill both itself and you.

It's not Fido's fault. But an unsecured dog in the back of a car becomes an extreme danger in the event of an accident.

Colliding with a solid object when driving at the urban speed limit creates the same force of deceleration used to test safety belts in a crash simulator. But while the seatbelted driver may be abruptly restrained in a crash, an unsecured 50lb dog sitting in the back of the car will continue flying forwards. Multiply the hapless dog's body weight by what accident researchers term a "pulse" of 20G, and a three-and-a-half-stone adult Springer Spaniel is transformed into an unguided missile propelled by a walloping 1,000ft/lbs of kinetic energy.

Although the vast majority of Cruft's Show contenders will be nursed to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in the relative safety of harnesses, padded boxes and cages, the parcel-shelf poodle and lap-top Labrador are still common features of driving life. Two years into her job, trainee veterinary nurse Jess White from Gloucestershire has already seen her fair share of road-related pet injuries, but a crash in which her own whippet, Dudley, died has made her an avid spokeswoman for dog safety.

"I was driving in my Mini at about 60mph when another vehicle pulled out on me," she recalls. "Dudley, who was 12, was sitting on the back seat when we crashed. I suffered head injuries; he broke his neck. But he didn't die immediately and was in terrible pain. I wouldn't let the ambulance take me away until the vet had arrived. I learnt my lesson the hard way; you should always choose a car with rear belts and fit a proper dog harness to the belt."

Mike Dickison, group leader for body engineering and safety at the Motor Industry Research Association's laboratories, says a hatchback or estate car with fold-down rear seats can be less likely to stop loose objects flying about in an impact, because the seats buckle under pressure. But the good news is that the introduction of centre three-point belts in place of lap belts has resulted in greater strength.

"The seats have been reinforced for the fifth belt and are less likely to collapse under the same strain. So if your dog is behind the seat, it will stand a better chance," says Dickison.

'Letting pets on the parcel shelf is madness'

The magazine, *Dogs Today*, is campaigning to make dog safety a bigger issue among carmakers.

"Manufacturers might be good at designing cup holders but they tend to develop a blind spot for four-legged passengers," explains editor Beverley Coddy.

"Volvo is making extraordinary efforts. For the 850 saloon, there's a cage area which allows you to fold a seat down and keep your dog in the boot, but the dog can still see you, so everyone's happy. Apart from Volvo though, no one else seems to be bothered."

Given that a quarter of UK households have dogs, carmakers need to wake up, says Coddy. "They're quick to use dogs to beautify their brochures, but that's about as far as it goes. We tell our readers to take their dogs with them when they go for a test drive."

The RSPCA recommends harnesses, particularly for small dogs. Spokeswoman Justine Pannett says, "It's important that the restraint is fitted to the dog's body and not a collar. For bigger dogs, we recommend a guard to stop the animal from falling forwards."

The RAC, however, has doubts about conventional dog guards. Safety spokesman Kevin Delaney feels a guard might actually increase injury risks. "A guard might prevent Fido from hopping into the front, but it's pretty useless for restraining a big dog in a crash. If it comes free, you have the added problem of the guard, as well as your dog, heading your way. The last thing you want immediately after a collision is for both dog and guard to rearrange themselves around the back of your head."

But that doesn't mean don't restrain your dog: "It's utter madness to let small dogs stand or sit on the parcel shelf," Delaney says. "When you brake sharply, the dog is likely to end up embedded under the front seat. In a head-on — and if it doesn't take out half of your skull on the way — it will hit the windscreen. And any dog left to wander loose in the back of any car is lethal baggage."

Be it to a show or just for walkies, if you're planning to take your dog on a journey, the RAC advises that you ensure that your dog is confined to an area big enough to enable it to lie down, but small enough to prevent it from roaming about. If possible, place padded material between the seatback and the dog, so that if the dog moves forwards suddenly in an accident or when braking hard, any impact is cushioned.

The Department of Transport says it has not researched restraints for dogs, but points to the *Highway Code* for guidance.

"Section 213 of the code stresses the need to keep animals under control and to make sure they are not a distraction to the driver, so an unrestrained dog could be judged by police as driving without due care and attention," says a spokesman.

Car insurers have no guidelines or stipulations for dog owners, and pet insurers such as Hill House Hammond do not insist upon cages or harnesses being fitted.

Some pet-product specialists, however, suggest more dogs are killed in the panic following a crash then during the crash itself. Geoff Caldwell, managing director of Barjo Kennel Systems, believes an unrestrained dog will jump through a broken window and often into the path of other traffic. Barjo designs wire mesh cages which are custom made to fit most models of estate car. A standard cage sells for £135.

"The key is to protect your dog from injury, protect you from your dog and protect anyone attempting to rescue you from a distressed and potentially dangerous animal," says Caldwell.

Cruft's Show starts on March 6 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Bentley's Cocker Spaniels are happy to ride in cages

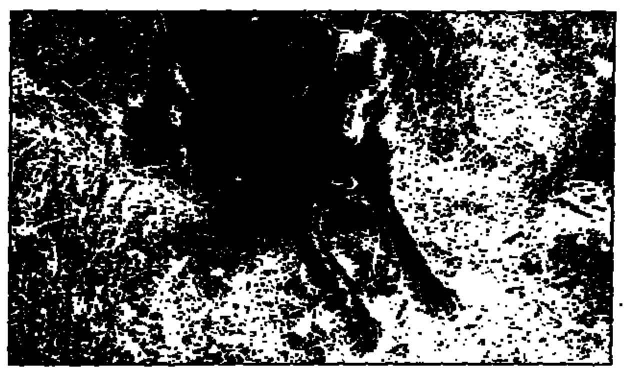
How to quell a Boxer rebellion

TRISHA BENTLEY, whose Cocker Spaniel, Albert, was overall winner at Cruft's in 1996, believes different dogs require different restraints. Albert and her nine other Cocker Spaniels are happy to ride in wire cages in the back of her Ford Escort. But Vesper, a prize Boxer bitch, just won't entertain being stashed at the back of the car.

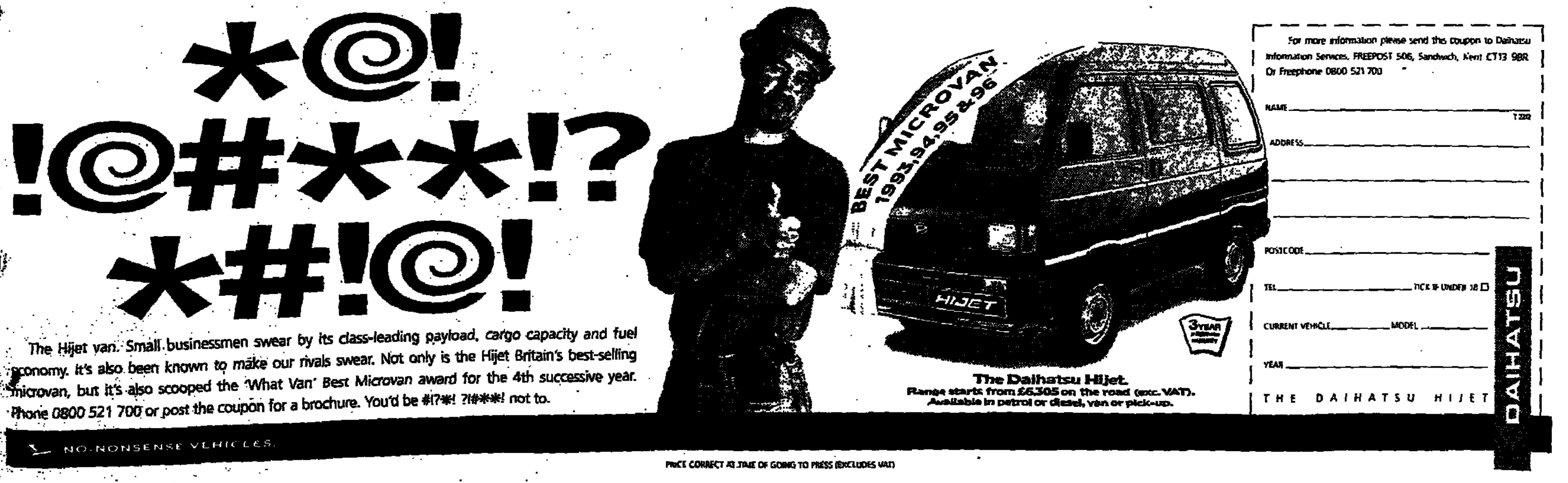
Says Trisha: "Vesper panics and she has to be closer to me, so she sits on the back seat and wears a restraining Hi-Craft harness which attaches to the safety belt.

"It is important that dog owners think before they set out on a journey and that they keep the wellbeing of their dogs in mind. A dog is a member of the family."

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Harness-supporter Jess White lost Dudley, above, in a crash



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Taxing road-use is a money-raising stunt that won't make more motorists travel to the office by rail — drivers will just avoid the motorways instead

Road tolls are a ding-dong idea

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

My part of the country is now regarded as being in the M4 corridor, a term lovingly used by estate agents to convince people that an area is within daily commuting distance of London. And indeed there are plenty of people in my area who do commute to London every day: you can identify them by the bags under their eyes.

An off-peak standard-class return ticket from Chippenham, my nearest main-line station, to Paddington now costs £31.50. The same return journey by car is about 200 miles and in an average car will use, at most, six gallons of fuel. In Chippenham, unleaded petrol costs about £2.86 a gallon, therefore the fuel cost of the journey is £17.16.

The last time the Government costed road pricing, it reckoned that cars would pay 1.5p per mile for motorway journeys. Thus the aforementioned round-trip would set us back £3 in tolls at the very most. Add that to the fuel cost and we have a grand total of £20.16. So, even using the cheapest return rail fare as a comparison, the journey is more than £11 cheaper by road than it is by rail.

This week *The Times* reported that the Government is pressing ahead with trials of a "ray-gun" device to collect road tolls. The nominal purpose of tolls is to make motorists pay for the cost of road improvements, even though we already pay the Treasury far more than we get back in road spending. But the secondary purpose of tolls is to make motoring more expensive and thus force us to use the railways.

Before you rush for the word processor or the writing paper, I know that motorists are living in dreamland if they think the only cost of travelling by car is the fuel. Surveys have shown that the real, overall cost of motoring is quite high but there is a central fallacy in those figures: they imply that if we went to work by rail, we would not own a car at all.

Of course we would. It would do less mileage if we travelled by rail to work, suggesting a higher residual value and fewer repairs, but then we would be likely to keep the car longer. So by the time we came to trade it in, the car would be worth no more than if we were swapping a newer one with the same mileage.

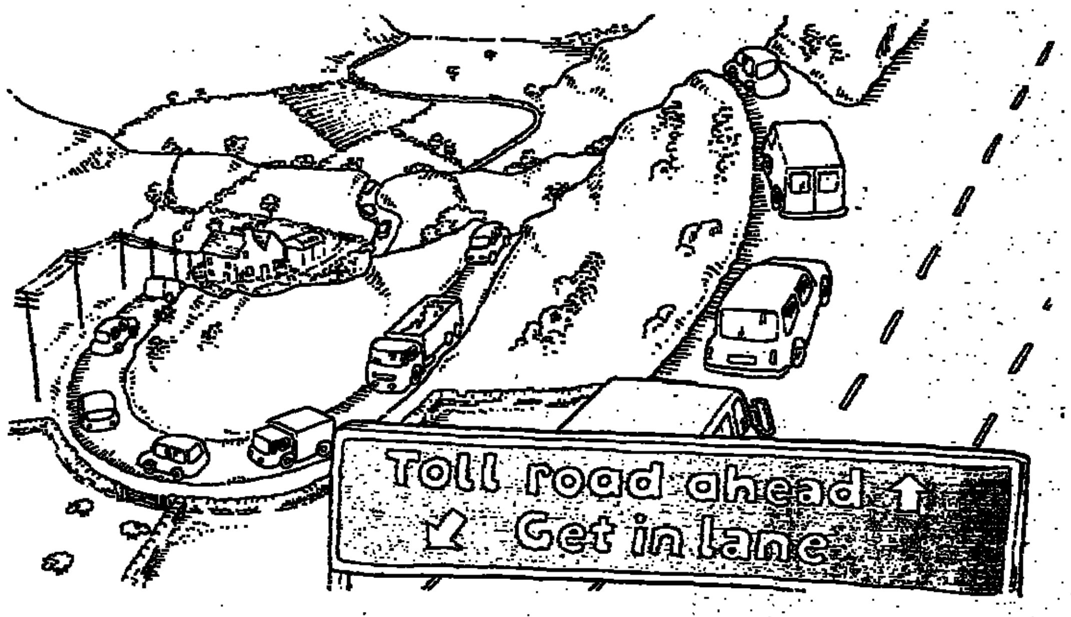
Railway advocates also suffer convenient amnesia about the fact that just as car journeys cost more than the petrol, rail journeys cost more than the ticket. Before the railways were privatised, taxpayers were subsiding them to the tune of £1 billion a year. Now, the subsidy has doubled to £2 billion a year. We are paying twice as much *not to own the railways as we paid* to own them, though the subsidy is supposed to reduce and eventually disappear over the next decade.

So will road pricing get drivers off the motorways? Oh yes, definitely. The trouble is that road pricing will not get drivers off the motorways and on to the trains, *but off the motorways and on to* the minor roads. If you doubt that, consider the fact that every time the toll on the older of the Severn bridges is raised, more transport firms tell their drivers to take the route through Gloucestershire that avoids the bridge.

Transport firms have already warned that road pricing (the toll *would be much higher for lorries* than cars) will increase the cost of goods, therefore another hidden cost is revealed: even people who do not use cars would end up paying for roads via the increased price of groceries.

No wonder that in last week's Autoglass/*Car 97* poll, only 16 per cent thought road tolls were the answer to congestion. The majority are no doubt also worried that once tolls arrive, their cost would inexorably rise. That would not make rail more competitive, because rail fares also rise.

Road tolls are taxation by another name, a money-raising stunt with no impact on congestion or pollution. Tolls are a wheeze for the Treasury and the people who make the technology. For ordinary motorists they are simply a cost without a benefit.



Greening our traffic

Magic mix could clean up diesel

Water, plus a secret agent, might be the answer, says **Stuart Birch**

Tests that could revolutionise the diesel car industry are underway in a laboratory at the high-security Millbrook automotive development centre and proving ground. A new fuel which should be no more expensive than ordinary diesel could make smoky exhausts a thing of the past.

And the wonder ingredient that makes it all possible is water — working with a secret agent. Concern about possible *health risks from* diesel *smoke* and particulates — soot — blown from exhaust pipes has grown recently. But now a French-Chilean inventor, Charles Miriel, has set up a British-registered company to *develop* and *market* an *emulsifying agent*, codenamed HEM 100, which may bring ultra-clean emissions.

Miriel is trying to prove wrong the old saying that oil and water do not mix. The work at Millbrook will be completed in late March and if the figures add up, diesel fuel could gain a green halo.

News of the potential breakthrough is revealed in this month's specialist magazine, *Diesel Car & 4x4*. "If Miriel's claims are proved accurate it will mean that he has come up with a cheap, organic, easily manufactured agent that performs the difficult trick of creating a permanent bond between diesel fuel and water. This could be the key to a new world of cleaner, more efficient car engines," says editor John Kerswill.

"It sounds almost too good to be true and only tests and time will prove whether it is. But it looks very hopeful at present."

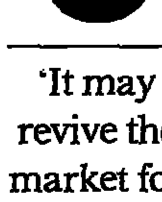
Miriel's work could lead to a major battle between diesel and petrol power and may *reverse the recent shrinking* market for diesel cars in the UK — down from a peak of 23 per cent to 18 per cent.

Kerswill says the new fuel has been researched and developed by Miriel over the past 15 years, and is a "simple" modification of normal car diesel fuel. It could be used in any car diesel engine, be it old or new.

Henry Coelho, a retail design consultant is a director of Miriel's Eurofuel company. "Using water in diesel fuel is not new. Ship engines use it and some large truck engines have water injection. But the problem has been developing a fuel suitable for small engines and one which will cope with temperature changes. Early tests have seen temperatures as low as minus 17C and up to plus 45C without showing signs of deterioration," *says Coelho.*

He says it cuts particulates by at least 80 per cent, and oxides of nitrogen, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide are all reduced by at least 30-40 per cent. These are very *significant claims as governments* bring in ever-tighter emissions legislation which pose major, and very expensive, problems for *diesel* car-engine makers.

The secret process involves diesel fuel and water being emulsified by the HEM 100 agent, which bonds water and hydrocarbon molecules to produce a milky looking liquid. The water lowers combustion temperature and reduces the formation of oxides of nitrogen. The water also results in smaller fuel droplets in the combustion chamber to permit far more efficient burning. It overcomes the problem of unburnt fuel which causes smoke and particulates.



'It may revive the market for diesel cars'

Coelho says when the water and diesel fuel emulsion enters the combustion chamber, the water flashes to superheated steam, atomising the fuel into minute droplets which can be totally burnt. "It may all sound very simple but it is a highly complex piece of chemistry. We believe HEM 100 could be either added to diesel fuel at the refinery or even at a filling station."

The cost of a gallon of emulsified fuel should be comparable to ordinary diesel, he says. "If a power unit was *designed specifically for the* new fuel the advantages would be greater. An added benefit is that the agent could be used for oil-spill dispersal."

SPECIAL PREVIEW: TWO NEW CARS UNVEILED THIS WEEK

Aircraft styling gives the Saab a tapered nose and a "cockpit" interior while retaining the curved windscreen

FIRST photographs of a top-of-the-range saloon, the Saab 9-5 which will be powered by a new generation of ultra-clean and economical turbocharged Ecopower engines, were released by the Swedish company this week, *writes Alan Copps.*

The front of the four-door 9-5 bears a strong resemblance to current models, keeping the maker's traditional wedge-shaped styling and curved windscreen. The design also features striking rear pillars *which are said to give it more* space in the back seats. The fascia is inspired by the company's aircraft experience and curves around the driver, giving the feel of a cockpit.

All engines in the range will be turbocharged, offering safe use of power for overtaking and Saab engineers promise it will be their best model yet in terms of roadholding and handling.

The car will be unveiled in Sweden in June and go on *show at the Frankfurt motor* show in September. Sales in Britain should start the following month and the new car is expected to add to the company's strong performance here.

Unveiling the 9-5, Robert Hendry, Saab's chief executive, confirmed that Britain was the company's outstanding market last year with record sales of 14,900 cars.

That means that one in ten executive cars sold here was a *Saab. The new car will be a* strong competitor for the BMW 5-Series, Audi A-6, Mercedes E-class and Volvo S70. Production of the ageing 9000CD will cease when the new car is introduced but the 9000CS model, renowned for *its outstanding safety performance*, will continue.

A special fiftieth anniversary model of the 9000CS accounted for a quarter of Saab sales last year.

SAAB 9-5

Body style: four-door saloon.
Engines: choice of turbocharged 2-litre or 2.3-litre four-cylinder, or V6 3-litre feauturing a unique assymetric turbocharger driven by exhaust from one bank of cylinders only.
Interior: *will include as standard Saab's interactive* head restraints designed to reduce whiplash injuries.
Price: to be announced.

All-new A6 bears a strong family resemblance to the A4, which has been Audi's standard-bearer over the past year

AUDI A6

Body-style: four-door saloon.
Engines: four-cylinder, 20-valve, turbocharged 1.8-litre giving 150bhp; six-cylinder 2.8-litre giving 193bhp and 2.4-litre V6 giving 165bhp. 1.9-litre TDI direct injection *diesel will be added to range shortly after launch.*
Interior: will include electronic climate control and remote central locking as standard.
Price: to be announced.

ANOTHER BIG contender in the executive car market was unveiled this week when Audi released the first photographs of its all-new A6. It will go on sale in Britain in May and the company is expecting to sell 4,000 of this model in its first full year, *writes Alan Copps.*

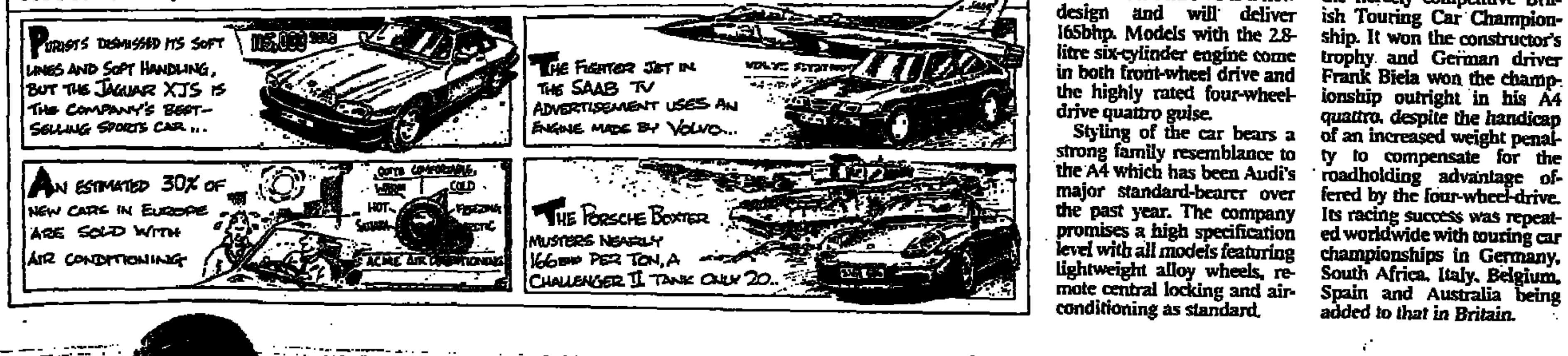
In the first place, the car will offer a choice of four-cylinder, six-cylinder and V6 engines and a direct-injection diesel will be added to the range later. The 2.4-litre V6 is a new design and will deliver 165bhp. Models with the 2.8-litre six-cylinder engine come in both front-wheel drive and the highly rated four-wheel-drive quattro guise.

Styling of the car bears a strong family resemblance to the A4 which has been Audi's major standard-bearer over the past year. The company promises a high specification level with all models featuring lightweight alloy wheels, remote central locking and air-conditioning as standard.

Audi, part of the Volkswagen *empire, was another company* which met with sales success in Britain last year, with a 19 per cent increase to 30,327 vehicles sold, giving it a 1.5 per cent share of the market overall. The firm's smaller A3 model is expected to make a bigger impact in the British market this year although at *present it is experiencing supply problems.*

Audi's reputation was enhanced by victory last year in the fiercely competitive British Touring Car Championship. It won the constructor's trophy and German driver Frank Biela won the championship outright in his A4 *quattro, despite the handicap* of an increased weight penalty to compensate for the roadholding advantage offered by the four-wheel-drive. Its racing success was repeated worldwide with touring car championships in Germany, South Africa, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Australia being *added to that in Britain.*

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long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● **LONDON**
M4 junctions 1-2 Chiswick area: major roadworks, also on the elevated section and the entry and exit slips. Closures on A4 in both directions.
A306 Hammersmith Bridge closed both ways.
A3 Kingston; northbound *lane closed between Shannon* Corner and Coombe Lane Junction.
M1 junction 2 Hendon; *major roadworks with no* access to or from A1.
A406 Upper Edmonton: roadworks over the Lea Valley Viaduct.
A3212 Westminster Bridge closed overnight and weekends.
A232 Wallington: roadworks and width restrictions.

● **SOUTH EAST**
M40 junctions 1a-2; roadworks with contraflow.
M11 junctions 6-4: lanes *closed.*
A31 Ringwood: roadworks with contraflow.
[illegible] *lane and hard shoulder closed* both ways.
M25 junction 2 [illegible] southbound lane closures.
M25 junctions 6-10: restrictions and lane closures.
A3 near Guildford: works at Stag Hill.

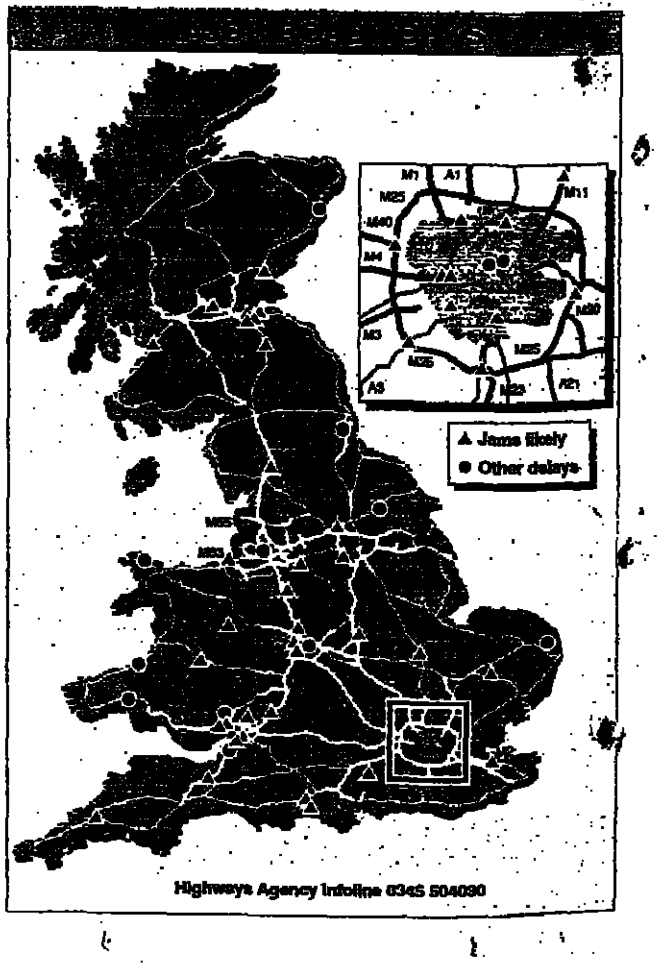
● **SOUTH WEST**
M5 junctions 18-19: contraflow.
A389, *Bodmin: roadworks.*
A48 Hill Street, Lydney: temporary lights.
A35 Christchurch Bypass: *lane closure.*
M5 junction 13: roadworks with only one lane open at the junction with the A419.
M5 junctions 26-27: lane closed in both directions.
M5 junctions 23-22: lane closed.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A1 Alconbury: one lane *northbound.*
A6 near M1 junction 24: roadworks and contraflow in both directions.
A1064 *Acle Way Bridge:* works.
A5 near M6 junction 12: closed both ways.
A500 *Stoke* area: contraflow with one lane each way.
A14 between Newmarket *and Bury St Edmunds:* contraflow.
A41 Wolverhampton: temporary traffic lights on *Bilston Road.*
A34 Birmingham: major roadworks on Stratford Road.
M5 junction 2: major roadworks closing the southbound entry and northbound exit slip roads.

● **NORTH**
M6 junctions 37-38: roadworks with a contraflow.
A1M junction 63: roadworks with 50mph limit at junction 63 (Chester-le-Street, A167).
A6 Hazel Grove: water main work with one lane *northbound in places* between Mill Lane and Stepping Hill.
M6 junctions 25-27: works *with a 50mph speed limit and* narrow lanes.
M53 junction 2: works, with only one lane each way *on the Moreton Spur.*
M1 junctions 34-35: carriageway down to two lanes in both directions.
M1 junction 47: *roadworks* with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

● **SCOTLAND**
A96 Bridge of Don: *roadworks affecting* the traffic in both directions.
M8 junction 2: lane *closures on the roundabout at* *Junction 2 (Newbridge* Spur, M9). Regular delays on all approaches.
A8 Edinburgh: lane *closures off-peak.*
A701 Edinburgh: contraflow between Old Burdiehouse Road and *Janefield off-peak.*
A92 Tay Road Bridge: maintenance work at the bridges and lane closures Southbound.
M80 junction 5; contraflow.
A710 Straiton Road, Midlothian: contraflow between Captains Road and the A720 City by-pass.
A7 Hawick: Tower Street, maintenance work will cause slight delays.
A77 Symington: southbound lane closure for *roadworks, just north of the* Bogend Toll.

● **WALES**
A482 Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road is closed for reconstruction work. Diversions via Panteg Road and the A487, where there are also temporary traffic lights. Expect long rush hour delays.
A48 Carmarthen: temporary traffic lights and lane restrictions on Pensarn roundabout.
A5025 City Dulas: one-way system over temporary bridge with width and weight limits.
A48 between Langstone and Penhow: temporary traffic lights.
A48 Maindee: works.
A44 between Llangurig and Eisteddfa Gurig: temporary lights.
A458 Pont Sychcoed, Cyfronydd: *temporary traffic* lights, also affecting the A483.
A472 Pontypool: *contraflow between* Pontymoile and the Heron Roundabout.



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Born to be styled: the easy dryers

Helen Mound on the latest fashion among hairdressers: big motorbikes and leathers

CHRIS HARRIS

Racing trim: Margita Roth has launched a mobile hairdressing service called Courier Cuts and rides around London visiting clients on her red 500cc Moto Morini dressed in matching red leathers

ROBIN MAYES

Nicky Clarke mixes leather with lather on his Harley

ALBAN DONOHOE

Anyone for a chop? Gavin Ashley with the bike he displays in his hairdressing salon

It's a long way from being a typical hairdresser's car. The Harley Davidson Fat Boy, one of the beefiest motorbikes ever built — is high-society hairdresser, Nicky Clarke's, everyday transport.

"I leave it at home when it gets really cold or wet, but otherwise I ride it all the time," he says. Clarke isn't the only hairdresser who has rejected the traditional two-seater sports cars normally associated with the profession and taken to two-wheels. Speed-crazy coiffeurs everywhere are leaping astride big, burly, loud and fast motorbikes.

Nigel Sellers, Director of Vidal Sassoon's hair salons, believes the trend is long overdue. "Hair stylists are very image-conscious people and so are bikers... it's a fashion statement. You get the bike and wear the gear to match."

Clarke, whose clients include Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Duchess of York, admits he already had the image to suit the motorbike: "A lot of my clients think I've always ridden a motorbike because of the leathers I wear. But apart from a 50cc Honda I had when I was 16, I've never been a bike rider."

His £13,000 Harley was a birthday present from his wife in June last year. "It was delivered with a big red rosette tied to it." He went on a week's intensive motorcycle course, but failed his test the first time and had technical problems the second; third-time lucky, he passed and got to ride his 1340cc machine home.

"It is a monster, but I love it, it's actually very easy to ride, like cruising around in a big, comfy armchair," he says.

Sellers thinks the biking hairdressing fraternity falls into three main groups. "There are the style-conscious ones who are into Ducatis and other Italian bikes because they're very chic. Then there are the Harley-Davidson riders who command an enormous amount of presence. And the ones who ride big Japanese machines are into the performance and handling of motorbikes, and of course, they want to wear the colourful leathers to match."

Sellers rides one of the fastest motorbikes on the road, a Kawasaki ZZR1100, capable of a top speed of 170mph and a 0-60mph sprint of 2.8 seconds. "It's particularly useful for doing inspections at the salons around London. Even if word gets out that I'm on the rounds I often catch them out because I can get to and from different branches very quickly."

It hasn't always been acceptable for people in the hairdressing profession, to ride bikes, he says: "I remember years ago being asked to be the first to arrive at work so that no-one would see me ride up on my bike. Today it's far more fashionable for people in salons to have motorbikes."

Although Sellers admits to enjoying the lifestyle of a biker he also relies on his bike for everyday commuting: "I love the speed of the bike and I've recently bought new leathers I'm rather proud of, but I commute fifty miles a day, so comfort and reliability are just as important to me."

Unsurprisingly, some hairdressers have found their beloved motorbikes work well as crowd-pullers; parking them in front of their salons can be good for business. Kris Efstratiou finds his Kawasaki ZZR1100 receives a lot of attention when he leaves it outside the salon where he works in East London. Previously he had a Ducati 907 which was equally effective at attracting crowds.

With a waiting list that exceeds three months, Nicky Clarke doesn't need to pull any more crowds; but he admits leaving his Harley-Davidson outside the salon doesn't do his business any harm either. "It's nice to leave it where I can keep an eye on it and, yes, I have noticed a lot of people stopping to admire it."

Gavin Ashley, who has a salon of the same name in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, has taken the motorbiking theme even further by using a Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail Springer — and more recently a Dyna Wide Glide — as a promotional display inside his salon.

"I thought it would make people stop and look... and I wanted something to appeal to male clients for a change. It's certainly provoked interest," he claims. And although it's unlikely he'll get any Hell's Angels popping in for a cut-and-blow-dry, he has had a lot of motorbike enthusiasts calling in for haircuts.

"I suppose it is a bit different for a market town in sleepy Suffolk, but the association between hairdressers and motorbikes is getting increasingly common," believes Ashley.

Sellers also believes that two-wheeled power is well suited to the image most hairdressers want, but he says Vidal Sassoon customers are unlikely to be sharing their salons with fashionable motorbikes in future: "It's a great idea, but I doubt I would be able to get away with it."

Hairdressers in America have been using motorbikes to promote their business for some time. John Paul Jones Dejoria, founder of the popular haircare products Paul Mitchell Systems, rides a Harley-Davidson in his promotional videos and adverts.

However, after six years with Vidal Sassoon, Margita Roth, a 29-year-old hairdresser from Germany has come up with the most innovative idea to combine her love of motorbikes with her profession. She has launched a mobile hairdressing service called Courier Cuts and rides around London visiting clients on her red 500cc Moto Morini dressed in matching red leathers.

"It's bright, bold and very, very noisy, I love it," she enthuses. "I use to ride big Japanese bikes. I had a Yamaha 650 and more recently a Yamaha 550, but that was stolen with all my hairdressing equipment on board. That's when I got the Morini and it's fabulous." She says the Italian bike is ideal for getting quickly to and from appointments and she can pack in several bookings a day.

Ms Roth loves her work and her bike so much that she's hoping to encourage several biking hairdressers to get together and embark on a "Courier Cuts World Tour". "There seem to be quite a few hairdressers around that love biking and most bikers like travelling. So I think a group riding and haircutting their way around the world would be fun."

It's an idea that appeals to Sellers: "Travelling appeals a lot to bikers, the freedom to ride wherever they please. I go to Europe a lot on my motorbike, but to ride around the world would be great."

Clarke also seems to agree: "I have been thinking about taking the Harley on to the Continent."

The only drawback is that although Ms Roth adores her Morini, she's certain it won't make it around the world: "I love it and will always keep it, but I think I'm going to need a touring bike for long journeys. Perhaps a BMW."

What is certain is that none of these motorbiking hairdressers will ever take up car driving full-time again, so next time you hear someone make a glib remark about "hairdresser's cars" you can put them right. There's just one problem — who's brave enough to tell a Harley fan like Arnold Schwarzenegger that he rides a hairdresser's bike?

The Rev revs up for a charitable Christian Triumph

Vaughan Freeman on a biking vicar's plan for a whip-round — around Britain

ANDREW HASSON

Thousand-mile service: the Reverend Geoffrey Daintree and bike

Motorcycling reverend Geoffrey Daintree has fulfilled a lifetime dream by finally climbing aboard a gleaming 750cc Triumph Bonneville, and all for a good cause.

Mr Daintree was just a schoolboy when his passion for the legendary Triumph name was first fired. He has owned a string of two-wheel machinery, but never a Triumph.

The nearest he got, after a succession of Japanese motorcycles, was another British-designed bike, a Royal Enfield, but the pressures of family life, and the limited means at his disposal as a vicar, meant that the Enfield had to go.

Mr Daintree is vicar in the East Sussex village of Framfield, a place so quaint it is only a matter of time before it becomes the set for a televised costume-drama. He is also Commissary for the Diocese of Cyangugu, in the south-west of Rwanda, a world away from settled, comfortable Framfield.

He set himself the task of raising £100,000 for the Rwandan diocese to equip a vocational school for orphans and widows in Cyangugu, and to equip a farm project, a veterinary dispensary and to help the Diocese there to become self-financing. And he decided that whatever he did to raise funds, it had to be fun if it was to generate the sort of enthusiasm needed to come up with such a huge amount.

The answer, he and his supporters decided, was a week-long, 1,300 mile round-Britain sponsored motorcycle trip that will take in 26 English Cathedrals, from Canterbury to Newcastle, Liverpool to Bristol, Yeovil to St. Paul's.

The team will be half-a-dozen strong, and plans to set off on May 11. One of the highlights, he hopes, is to link up with members of the Fellowship of Christian Motorcyclists at Coventry cathedral, near where the Bonneville was built.

The round-Britain ride has won the backing of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Chichester and Peterborough, as well as support from Sir Harry Secombe.

It is a serious venture, a motorcycling marathon of 200 miles a day, in aid of a serious cause. Even so, Mr Daintree cannot stop smiling when he talks about the 1980 Bonneville, which he has been able to finance with the sponsorship of a local businessman.

"To own a Bonneville was a childhood dream. As a boy I used to do a paper round, and when I delivered the newspapers I used to see this Triumph Bonneville 750 every day in somebody's garden, and said to myself then that one day I would own one."

Dreams aside, why a 17-year-old Bonneville for such a trip rather than, with all due respect, a more reliable if less charismatic Japanese machine? "I thought that having a classic British bike would be a focus for the fund-raising," he says.

"Whenever I am riding it and park, three or four people always wander over to have a look, and gather round. It is a very attractive bike. In 1980 the Bonneville was voted machine of the year — and mine is a 1980 bike. It is wonderful. People say it drips oil and that it rattles around, and I suppose it does a bit.

Having finally got his hands on his dream machine, he has no intention of letting it go. Although acquired primarily for the charity ride, he will pay for it by selling examples of his carpentry, which he turns out in the barn which doubles as his workshop and home to the Bonneville.

Anyone who would like to help can contact Mr Daintree on 01825 890365, and at: The Vicarage, Framfield, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5NH.

Triumph test, p10

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New launch: **Kevin Eason** on the radical hatchback coupé designed in a flash to outrun the opposition

Powerful Puma — Ford's 135-day wonder

Ford really has torn up the rule book: out goes bland Euro-styling and in comes yet another radical shape that promises to shake up the competition at the cheapest end of the market.

The company this week unveiled the Puma, a coupé based on the chassis and running gear of a Fiesta. However, the coupé gets a new 1.7-litre Zetec SE power plant with 123 brake horse power, which means this little hatchback should have enough puff to outrun the competition from Vauxhall and Renault.

What is heartening though is that Ford has not been diverted from its mission to produce some radical new shapes to stick on our high streets. Like the Ka, which the company used to redefine the styling of superminis, the Puma will at least catch the eye, from its big bug-eyed headlamps right to the swept-up tail.

Vauxhall created the new category of mini-coupé with its Tigra, while Renault muscled into the market with a two-door version of the Megane. Ford has traditionally answered with a derivative Fiesta in XR2 or 1.4Si form, but now comes a model specifically targeted at buyers who want a sporty two-door without breaking the bank.

Prices will be announced closer to launch later in the year, but should be pitched at around £15,000 to remain within a pound coin's throw of the Tigra and Megane.

For the money, the car will be quite highly specified and feature some of the interior cues learned from the Ka experience; so the dash is clean with white dials, the stereo a simple-to-use big-button format model, the seats sculpted and the boot big, though difficult to enter because the lip sits high over the fat rear bumper and is squashed between the three-light rear lamp clusters.

Ford's engineers are said to have worked on the driving experience to make it more pleasurable than the current line-up, planting big 15-inch wheels onto low-profile tyres at the end of a wider track than the Fiesta, stiffening up the chassis and suspension and making the steering more responsive. Anti-lock brakes are standard.

The 1.7-litre Zetec engine is new to the Puma and will deliver peak torque from as low as 1,500rpm, managed through a close-ratio gearshift — topped off with a nifty aluminium knob — which promises that the Puma will rev freely and offer a sporty drive.

The bigger engine plus extra body weight means that the Puma is six inches longer and weighs in around 50 kilos heavier than the Fiesta. That should not affect the fuel consumption too drastically though, and Ford forecasts that the Puma will need to drink a gallon of unleaded every 38 miles or so on average.

Not that potential customers for this car will be too concerned about petrol bills, for Ford will be looking for those desirable Dinkies (Double Income No Kids) couples who are now the Holy Grail of the car salesmen.

On looks alone, Ford stands a good chance of attracting enough buyers to get rid of the 30,000 to 40,000 it is planning to make at its Fiesta plant at Cologne in Germany, and the Puma gives the company yet another model to add to its ever expanding line-up.

Significantly, Puma is the first Ford designed entirely by computer and in just 135 days, which means the company will be able to develop even more niche models from existing chassis at low cost and remarkably quickly.

Fords now start with the Ka and go all the way to the big, bulky and American-made Explorer 4x4. With a mini people-mover scheduled for production at Halewood on Merseyside, Ford is clearly aiming to plug every niche gap in the market in its quest for profitability.

FORD PUMA

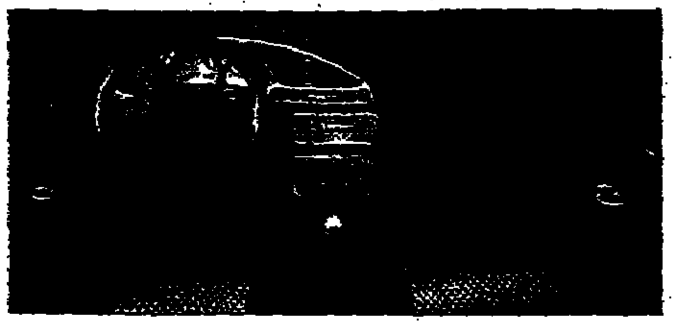
Engine: 1.7-litre, 16-valve Zetec SE delivering 123bhp at 6,300rpm through five-speed transmission to front wheels.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 8.8 seconds, top speed 126mph.

Fuel consumption: 38.2mpg on European average cycle.

Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, power steering, four diagonal seat belts, large-control stereo.

Price: around £15,000.


Puma dash is clean with white dials, the stereo easy to use

Ford based the Puma on Fiesta chassis, but created a novel look for the Zetec-engined coupé

ROBIN MAYES

Sara Copeland, our launch winner, proved the value of her employer's training policy

How Sara's company-car driving skills beat the Road Safety Minister

Alan Copps almost tackles the tricky course at the launch of this year's *Times*/Lease Plan competition

There could be no better illustration of the virtues of driver training. Sara Copeland is head of human resources for Habitat and, like all other employees the firm provides with a company car, she went on a one-day driving course.

So when we invited her to help launch our annual search for *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year, we were expecting a demonstration of skill and control. Sara provided just that: despite a degree of nervousness at forsaking her usual Audi Coupé for the Nissan Primera Sri which will be used by this year's entrants, she gave a demonstration of smooth, calm driving to beat three men around a course of cones which included two tricky three-point turns and a slalom. The catch? On the Nissan's bonnet was a large plastic saucer with a lightweight ball inside and the trick was to get round the course without spilling the ball.

Sara got round the course without hesitation in just two minutes and four seconds. Now is the chance for you or your company to match her skill. More and more women are joining the ranks of company car drivers and we hope Sara's example will encourage many of them to take part in this year's competition.

There is a month in which companies great or small can enter for the regional heats by filling in the form below. All you need is three willing drivers, aged over 24 who have a car or use of a car provided as part of their remuneration. Each team entry has to be endorsed by a company director or fleet manager.

The finals, at the Silverstone Driving Centre, are a rare chance to experience the excitement of driving under expert supervision at the home of the British Grand Prix. The individual winner will win a trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix and the winning team will be offered driver training for 12 employees and the use of a Nissan vehicle for three months.

John Bowis: came third

Our test course at Ham House in Southwest London was designed by Chris Howell, managing director of Drive Tech, one of Britain's leading driver-training companies, which oversees the heats of our competition and which also trains Habitat's company car drivers.

First to try the course, in appalling weather, was John Bowis, the Minister for Road Safety, who had come to demonstrate the Government's backing for the competition, which is now in its fourth year. The contest aims to heighten awareness of the need for skill and care among those who may cover many tens of thousands of miles during a year's work.

More and more large firms are beginning to invest in training to help erase that reputation for devil-may-care driving which dogs the company car motorist. Mr Bowis and others concerned with road safety are well aware that even a few hours' instruction in anticipating the hazards of the road can dramatically reduce insurance premiums and the risk of expensive repairs or, worse, injuries and absence from work.

With the disadvantage of being first — and although he is used to an automatic — Mr Bowis took the Nissan around the course with great skill recording a time of two minutes and ten seconds. Vahid Daemi, managing director of Lease Plan, Europe's leading vehicle management company, went round in two minutes 17 seconds and was commended by Chris Howell for his steady style. Then Sara set the pace.

Although Chris was keeping the times close to his chest, your correspondent was impressed by the speed and smoothness of all three, and realised he'd been set a hard task. The car went smoothly, the ball went round and round in the saucer and the last cone of the slalom went flying, incurring a five-second penalty.

I did manage to complete the fastest round, in exactly two minutes, but that penalty was enough to ensure that Sara proved her point.

It's a competition about safety, not speed, but even so seconds count. Fill in the form and give it a try…

Four-wheel winning driver

■ THE WINNER of our competition for a drive in a Land Rover at the *Midland Auto Trader* Four-Wheel-Drive Day on March 1 is Mrs Janet Griffith of Shrewsbury, Shropshire. She correctly answered our question: the first Land Rover was unveiled in 1948.

She wins the use of a Land Rover provided by Marshalls of Peterborough and accommodation for two over the weekend at the Haycock Hotel, Wansford, Peterborough from which the day-long event, one of the best of its kind, starts next Saturday. If you were not lucky enough to win and have access to a suitable four-wheel-drive vehicle there is still time to enter by telephoning Cranium Communications on 01780 766966. Entries close on Tuesday.

Car cover up

■ PAY-OUTS ON motor insurance claims last year were higher than expected and could lead to premium rises of between 5 and 10 per cent this year, according to insurers Touchline. In 1995 premiums fell by up to 20 per cent as direct insurers brought fierce competition to the market, but Touchline says they must now go up to meet the increased cost of claims.

Rather no Moss

■ STIRLING MOSS has asked us to point out that he will not be taking part in July's race recreation at the historic Rheims circuit in France, as we reported on January 11. However, the organisers are still seeking entries and anyone interested should contact Trisha Pilkington on 01803 722357.

Fittipaldi festival

■ EMERSON FITTIPALDI, Brazil's double world champion, is to drive a Penske Indycar as part of a large American presence at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed in June. More information: 01243 787766.

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company
Car Driver
1997

Entry Form

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company
Car Driver
1997

• About your company

Name of entrant: .... Position: .... Signature: ....
NB: Entrant should be director/ senior manager responsible for the company's car fleet
Company name: ....
Address: ....
Post code: .... Tel number: .... Fax number: ....
Nature of business: .... Number of employees: .... Number of company cars: ....

• Nominated drivers

	Surname	Job title	Forename	Age	Points on licence (max 3)
1					
2					
3					
4					

• Which venue?

Please select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Elstree, Herts	Friday, 25 April	☐
Macclesfield, Cheshire	Friday, 9 May	☐
Bracknell, Berks	Friday, 16 May	☐
Nottingham	Friday, 30 May	☐
Gatwick, Surrey	Friday, 6 June	☐
Coventry	Friday, 13 June	☐

You must ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are able for both first and second choice dates and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 4 July 1997. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

• Competition rules

The closing date for entries is March 28 1997. Drivers must be 24 years of age or over to enter. Only corporate entries will be accepted. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in teams of three. The entrant may also nominate himself/herself as part of the team. Companies can only enter one team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependent upon a written test to be completed by the entrant at that team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the competition, competitors who reached the final in two previous consecutive years, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed in writing at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over-subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a random driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the heat. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to compete in their place. The prize for the winner will be a special trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix. The team/company prize will be a driver training programme for 12 employees and the use of a Nissan vehicle for three months. Cash alternatives are not available. The judge's decision is final.

Once you have completed this form, fax it back to Lease Plan on 01753 620676 or post to Marketing Dept, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1TY. For further information call Lease Plan on 01753 797284

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ROAD TEST

■ TO SPEND more than £4,000 on something you are unlikely ever to know how to use, let alone want to use, is unlikely to endear you to your bank manager, *writes Vaughan Freeman.*

Yet Nissan quite cheerfully concedes that the vast majority of motorists who will stump up more than £17,000 for their 136mph Primera 2-litre GT, are only ever likely to tap, at most, 75 per cent of their car's handling, driving and high-performance ability.

Which means that for most of the time, most Primera GT drivers will be spending their time driving comfortably within three-quarters of the car's capabilites and coming nowhere near the performance limits that earn the car its GT badging and represent about £4,380 worth of elusive excellence.

That might not make financial sense but is probably just as well for everybody else on the road, given that the GT will reach almost twice the maximum UK motorway legal speed and will go from 0-60mph in well under nine seconds. The GT also boasts extraordinary roadholding, which means that it can go through corners fast, fast, fast, thanks to lateral cornering grip more usually found on the 170mph Skyline GT-R.

Nissan development engineers say that a driver of average ability will be quite safe and comfortable, and have all the excitement likely to be desired in the car, without surging adrenalin, sweaty palms, or representing a worry to other drivers.

This is Nissan's sporting flagship, it goes on sale in May, and the company forecasts it will sell 1,500 of them annually — three times as many as its predecessor.

Much of that increased interest will derive from the GT's direct link to the brace of Primeras that will participate in this year's British Touring Car Championship, which gets under way next month. Just as the GT's promotion will benefit from Nissan stressing its links to the televised BTCC races, so the GT itself has benefitted from a development programme that led to the 300bhp BTCC version of the car.

Nissan development driver Dirk Schoysman was one of those who spent hours testing and tuning the GT during 4,000 miles and 300 laps of high-speed motoring around the famous Nurburgring racing circuit.

The GT-buyers, says Schoysman, far from spending money on a car they cannot fully use, will own a car that provides huge margins of safety.

This has been done by adapting and refining the beam rear suspension and multi-link front suspension used throughout the Primera range, with slightly wider front and rear tracks and a stiffer body.

Does it work? Certainly. driving the GT on the Enna Pergusa circuit in Sicily, this driver's nerve gave up on fast corners long before the car wanted to. Flat out it was very, very stable, and even in the wet the anti-lock braking system afforded ample stopping power and, as importantly, the ability to brake and steer without the wheels locking.

To see what the car's other 25 per cent was like, Nissan team BTCC driver David Leslie took the wheel, and I took the passenger seat for a few laps. What did he think? Leslie says: "This car now has wishbone suspension on the front, as is the case with Formula One cars. It is nicely balanced so that if you clip the kerbing on the corner, the car settles down again straight away, and it is very forgiving."

In expert hands, the Primera GT is an impressive production car, fast, sure, but at its best in corners. Even at improbable speeds going left or right, the GT holds on long after an anxious journalist might have expected it to have swapped forward progress for a slide or spin.

The seats, with lateral cushions to bolster the thighs and keep occupants in place through the corners, work very well, and with air conditioning as standard, a sprinkle of leather, alloy wheels, six-speaker stereo system, alarm and immobiliser, comfort as well as performance is taken care of.

The ideal car it would seem, for the average company driver who harbours above-average motoring ambitions.

Primera 2-litre GT: 136mph worth of enhanced handling and performance

PRIMERA GT

Engine: Two-litre, 16-valve, four-cylinder petrol producing 150bhp at 6,100rpm, driving front wheels through five-speed manual gearbox.
Performance: Top speed 136mph, 0 to 62mph in 8.8 seconds.
Economy: 25.9mpg in town, 44.1mpg extra urban, 34.9mpg combined fuel cycles.
Equipment: Air conditioning, anti-lock braking, six-spoke alloy wheels, electrically adjustable and heated mirrors, twin foglamps, front power windows, revised seats with leather side-bolsters for lateral support, leather steering wheel.
Price: £17,500.

USED CAR BRIEF

Daihatsu Sportrak.
The Sportrak was launched in 1989 as the fun-loving cousin to Daihatsu's workhorse Fourtrak, and to compete with budget-priced off-roaders from Lada and "leisure" off-roaders like the Suzuki Vitara. The 1.6-litre, 16valve engine got a catalyst a year after launch. A zippy car given its size, with a top speed of around 90mph. Available in two-door and three-door estate, with soft top and removeable hard top.

GOOD NEWS: The off-road abilities of the Sportrak are recognised, and it certainly comes a lot cheaper than the fancier, bigger, heavier four-wheel-drive cars now on sale. A tough chassis and strong suspension means the Sportrak can take a lot punishment and should last well. Power steering as standard.

LOOK FOR: The range was updated in 1991 with the arrival of the STi soft-top and the two estates, the ELi and ELXi, which spoil owners with electric windows and sunroof over front seat occupants. Special edition SE and LE come with uprated trim. From 1994 the EXi cars have newer suspension and restyled front.

SAFETY: The Sportrak's four-wheel drive means that in adverse driving conditions the car makes the greatest use of what grip there is, despite rain, ice or snow. Comfortable seats and a high driving position help too.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (prices include VAT) Clutch assembly £185; full exhaust £285; front damper £100; rear damper £70; front brakepads £65; alternator £145; starter motor £75; tyre £100.

BAD NEWS: Off-road capability means that on tarmac the car has a somewhat harsh and jiggly ride which can make long-distance motorway trips hard work. The nature of such cars means that the Sportrak is heavy, and far less nimble than saloon cars, and repairs are more costly.

AVOID: Cars that have lived a hard life will have suffered damage underneath. Check especially any problems with the steering and suspension that might have been caused by abuse off road, and for scratches to paintwork. Check low-ratio transfer box and that the selectable four-wheel-drive engages smoothly.

INSURANCE: Cover from *AA Insurance (0800 444777)* on a 1993 1.6i Sportrak ELXi costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £174 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £1,235, and a similar female pays £951.

PRICES: Expect to pay £3,875 for a 1989 Sportrak 1.6 DX two-door soft top; £5,500 for a 1991 H-reg 1.6-litre EL two-door hard top; £5,700 for a 1991 J-reg 1.6i ELi three-door; £7,825 for a 1994 L-reg 1.6i EXi three-door; £6,500 for a 1992 J-reg 1.6 ELXi three-door, and £11,000 for a 1995 N-reg 1.6 ELXi three-door estate.

OVERALL: Well built even if it looks like an overblown child's toy, the Sportrak is fun, but its styling is not for the shy and demure. Chunky is the key word, a car that comes into its own when the sun is shining.

FORECOURT

■ BUILT LIKE a tank, cosy, with a lot of room for people and load, the VW Passat is still unfairly regarded, reports *CAP Black Book*.

Despite its excellent carrying capacity, its robustness, and the sort of build quality we have come to expect from VW, the Passat (1988 to 1996) nevertheless lacks image, *writes Vaughan Freeman.*

The estate, thanks to its practicality and carrying ability, is worth more than the saloons, and high-mileage cars are a shrewd buy since the Passat, if looked after, serviced regularly, and supported by a full VW history, barely shrugs as it motors past 150,000 miles.

The GL is most sought after and diesels can also make a good buy, although the 1.9-litre engine is preferred. Best buy is the 1994 M-reg 2-litre GL estate with around 60,000 to 70,000 miles on the odometer, for which you can expect to pay in the region of £8,000.

It is best to avoid the L spec, as this is pretty Spartan in terms of comfort, while the GT 16-valve can be tricky to sell. Over-priced diesel cars are also worth shunning. Watch for exhaust smoke, and worn shock absorbers.

■ FIAT'S TIPO (1989-1996) is favoured for its lively engines and a galvanized body which counters suspicions about Italian cars' rustiness. It is roomier than an Escort.

The Tipo is also usually quite cheap. Against all of that, the gearchange can be poor, and there is still doubt about the durability of the interior trim.

Even so, Tipos are popular with the trade, although colour, mileage and condition can have a dramatic impact on value. Best buy is a 1991 J-reg 1.4 litre S five-door with average miles, for which you can expect to pay £2,500. Avoid GTs that have worked hard and also overpriced diesels.

SPARE PARTS

■ VAUXHALL'S VECTRA will be the first family-sized car on sale in Britain to have side airbags. The company, based at Luton, Bedfordshire, is determined to maintain a lead in the safety stakes over its key rivals and this month makes side airbags the latest "must have" gadget.

The 12-litre bag is fitted into the side of each front seat and designed to inflate within 15 milliseconds of a collision. Side impacts are among the most dangerous, causing about 30 per cent of all deaths in cars, simply because driver and passenger are most vulnerable to an impact which penetrates the doors. Seatbelts are mainly designed to cope with head-on accidents. However, Vauxhall's side airbag inflates to cushion the driver or passenger from rebounding into the door or window. The option costs £450, including passenger airbag, or £135 where a passenger bag is fitted.

Vectra: side airbag first

■ CITROEN HAS increased prices by an average 1.6 per cent but that will include all costs, including tax, number plates and delivery. The French carmaker will give buyers a one-price sticker cost as it builds sales in Britain, last month winning 10 per cent of all sales of superminis with the new Saxo.

■ LAND ROVER is reclaiming its written-off vehicles to cut the market in bodyshells and chassis. The manufacturer is paying up to £2,000 to retrieve written-off Land Rovers to ensure they are not sold to unsuspecting buyers.

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230TE
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220E
'93-K, Blue/Black met. leather, alloys, FSH. 1 owner. 74k, £14,500.
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£28,500
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C200
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1996 N reg. 7,600 mls.
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Auto, E reg, 1987, 58,000 miles. Petrol blue, hard & soft top, FMBSH, pristine condition. £21,995.
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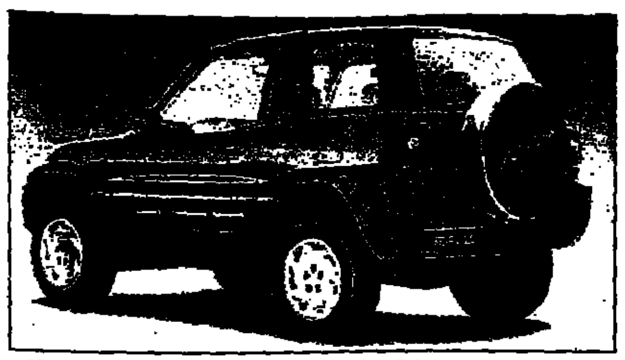
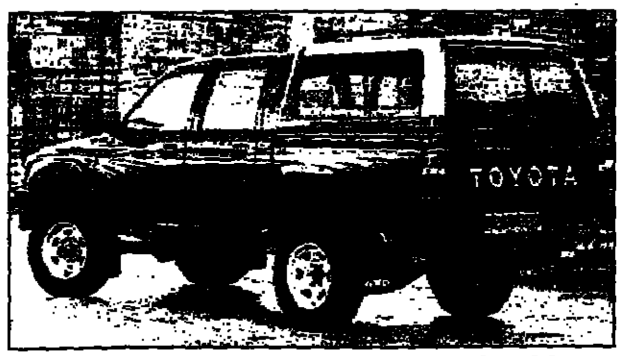
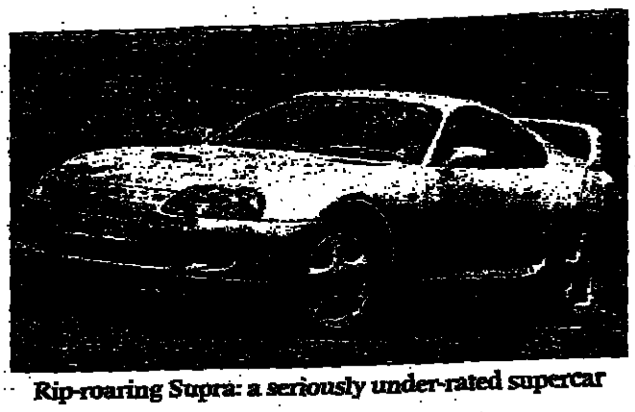
Alan Copps explores Toyota's huge range of vehicles and the niche newcomers it introduces this month


Trendiest of the small four-wheel drives: RAV4 MAX


The Hilux 4WD: now Britain's most popular pick-up

Paseo: lively coupé that was introduced last year


Rip-roaring Supra: a seriously under-rated supercar

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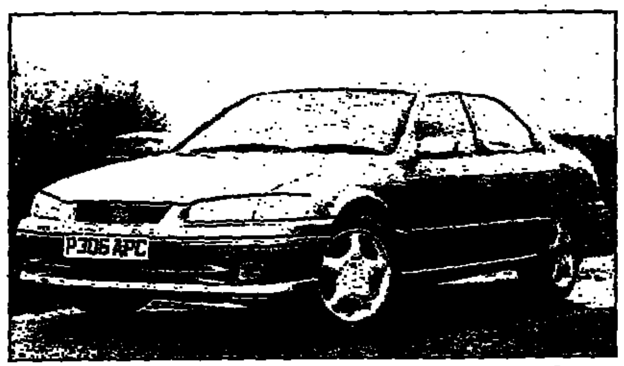
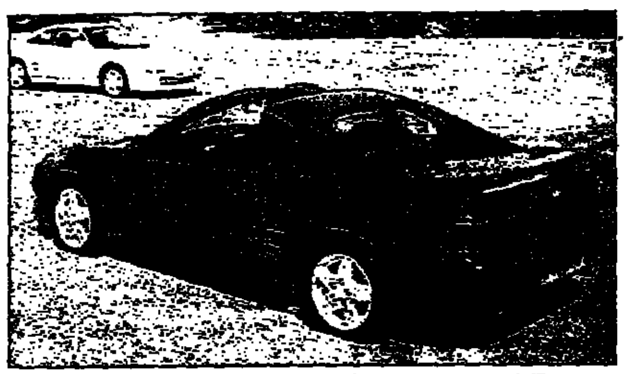

Camry Sport Saloon: performance car for executives

Smallest car in the Toyota range: tiny Starlet Sportif

Corolla: efficient all-round model for the family

New Landcruiser Amazon: ultra-luxurious off-roader


Small and sporty: the cute Toyota MR2 GT

Previa GL: the largest MPV currently on the market

Celica GT Four: the coupé that comes with space

The most remarkable thing about Toyota in Britain is the sheer range of vehicles it offers. The launch of three new models this month means the company now has 13 different types of vehicle in its price list, ranging from the tiny Starlet mini to the roaring Supra, one of the most under-rated supercars.

In between it boasts Britain's most popular pick-up, the Hilux, a large slice of reliable family transport and the ultra-trendy RAV 4, widely considered the best of the new breed of small four-wheel drives. And that is without including the company's own prestige brand, Lexus.

The new models enable the range to enter three more niche markets. The new Landcruiser Amazon is an ultra-luxurious version of the big four-wheel-drive which has sold more than three million worldwide since the 1950s; the Camry Sport is aimed at the executive driver who wants a bit of added performance and presence on the road, and the Picnic, which Toyota says is the pioneer of a new class, the "family fun vehicle".

The Amazon comes with full-time four-wheel-drive, a choice of petrol and diesel engines, and the top versions feature a wealth of equipment which would allow up to eight occupants to listen to the CD player while crossing a desert in leather-cushioned, air-conditioned luxury. It will compete head-on with top-specification Range Rovers and Jeep's Grand Cherokee.

The Picnic is the first vehicle to be launched in competition for Renault's Megane Scenic, the scaled-down MPV voted Europe's Car of the Year in 1996. A number of other carmakers are planning to join the fray. The Camry gives Toyota yet another variation in one of the most hotly contested segments of the company car market.

MARQUE OF THE MONTH

TOYOTA

New Picnic: competitor for Renault's Megane Scenic

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Transmission: Permanent four-wheel drive.
Equipment: power steering, ABS, air-conditioning.
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CAMRY SPORT
Engine: 128bhp four-cylinder, 2.2-litre, 16-valve.
Equipment: alloy-wheels, air-conditioning, ABS.
Performance: 0-62mph 10,4 seconds, max 122mph
Price: £23,210 (£24,170 auto).

PICNIC
Engine: 2-litre, five-speed manual, four-speed auto.
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Biking's coming home, at long last

Roland Brown on the superb new Triumphs that put Britain on top

Naked T509 Speed Triple: less powerful, but great fun

GOLD & GOOSE

Daytona T595 scorches straight to the head of the superbike league, with great cornering, a significant power boost — achieved with Lotus's help — and quality throughout

If 1996 was the year that *Football's Coming Home* made patriotic hearts beat faster, then this year the song should perhaps be rewritten to celebrate another glorious return. Last month Triumph's new T595 Daytona was launched to huge critical acclaim, and came within a whisker of becoming the country's best-selling superbike.

Along with the Leicestershire firm's other new "second-generation" machine, the naked T509 Speed Triple, the Daytona represents a stepping-up of Triumph's assault on the superbike market. Both new models feature powful three-cylinder engines, sophisticated fuel-injection and state-of-the-art chassis design.

Yet just seven years ago the once-great British motorcycle industry seemed dead. Then Triumph, owned by multi-millionaire builder John Bloor (who had bought the bankrupt company from the liquidator and kept only its name), revealed several impressive new three and four-cylinder bikes. The firm has since improved and enlarged the range, forged a reputation for reliable if unspectacular engineering, begun exporting worldwide and increased production to last year's total of over 14,000.

One thing that Triumph has not done until now is build a true super-sports machine. The British firm's modular engineering format — where many components including the frame and much of the engine were shared between models to reduce costs — prevented the degree of specialisation required to compete with roadburners such as Ducati's 916 and Honda's CBR900RR FireBlade.

Now, Triumph is big and confident enough to adopt a more aggressive approach. The T595 (Triumph's factory code name was retained for the production bike) was designed for ultimate high-performance. The previous Daytona model's liquid-cooled three-cylinder engine has been enlarged to 995cc and tuned with the help of Lotus Engineering, giving a peak output of 128bhp — slightly more than either the 916 or FireBlade.

The chassis is all new, based on a frame made from polished, oval-section aluminium tubes. High-quality features abound, from the multi-adjustable suspension (Japanese-made, as before) to the single-sided aluminium rear swing-arm, which Triumph admits was used more on grounds of style than engineering.

And why not? Modern superbikes are bought as much for a show as for go, so it was vital that the T595 looked good. The British bike doesn't quite have the sensuous lines of the 916, but the all-yellow (or black, if you prefer) Daytona is a handsome machine. It seems nicely finished too, as you settle into the firm seat and reach forward to handlebars that are positioned low to cheat the wind.

The Triumph puts too much weight on the wrists for slow-speed comfort, but this bike is for the open road. That big three-cylinder engine gives a distinctive feel, and performance is exhilarating. Just wind open the throttle and the T595 flies, surging smoothly at low revs, then kicking hard towards a top speed of over 160mph. There is a slight flat-spot at about 5,000rpm and the six-speed gearbox is occasionally imprecise, but overall, the engine is superb.

The T595 is equally impressive in corners, thanks to its light weight (198kg), rigid frame and excellent suspension. The Triumph is slightly heavier and less easy to steer than the class-standard FireBlade, but hits back by being correspondingly more stable. Its brakes are immensely powerful; its broad Bridgestone tyres very sticky.

The same is predictably true of the T509 Speed Triple whose chassis, apart from the lack of a fairing and a painted instead of polished frame, is identical. With its twin headlamps and tiny flyscreen (a £100 optional extra), the T509 has a raw, streetwise look that will not appeal to every rider. But for those who like its style, the Speed Triple is great fun.

Its engine falls midway between the T595 and Triumph's old three-cylinder unit, retaining the original 885cc capacity but gaining the new sportster's fuel-injection, exhaust system and some internal parts. Peak output is 107bhp, enough for a top speed of over 130mph, and the Triple also has more midrange power than the highly-tuned sports bike, making for effortless acceleration.

The T509 Speed Triple is also £1,350 cheaper than the £9,649 Daytona. But it is the Daytona that has been making most of the headlines. No British bike has generated such excitement since Norton's 750cc Commando ruled the roads in the late 1960s.

Since then this country's motorcycle fans have, in the words of last summer's song, suffered "30 years of hurt" from Japanese humiliation. But the pain is over. With the T595 Daytona, Britain again has a sports bike to match the very best in the world.

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Engine:
Three-cylinder, 12-valve, 885cc producing 107bhp at 9100rpm.

Transmission:
Six-speed gearbox. Chain final-drive.

Performance: Max speed 135mph, 0-60mph in 3.2 seconds

Price: £8299 (plus £350 on-the-road charge)

Insurance group: 14 (with Norwich Union)

DAYTONA

Engine:
Three-cylinder, 12-valve, 955cc producing 128bhp at 10,200rpm.

Transmission:
Six-speed gearbox. Chain final-drive.

Performance:
Max speed 165mph, 0-60mph in 2.8 seconds

Price: £9649 (plus £350 on-the-road charge)

Insurance group: 15 (with Norwich Union)

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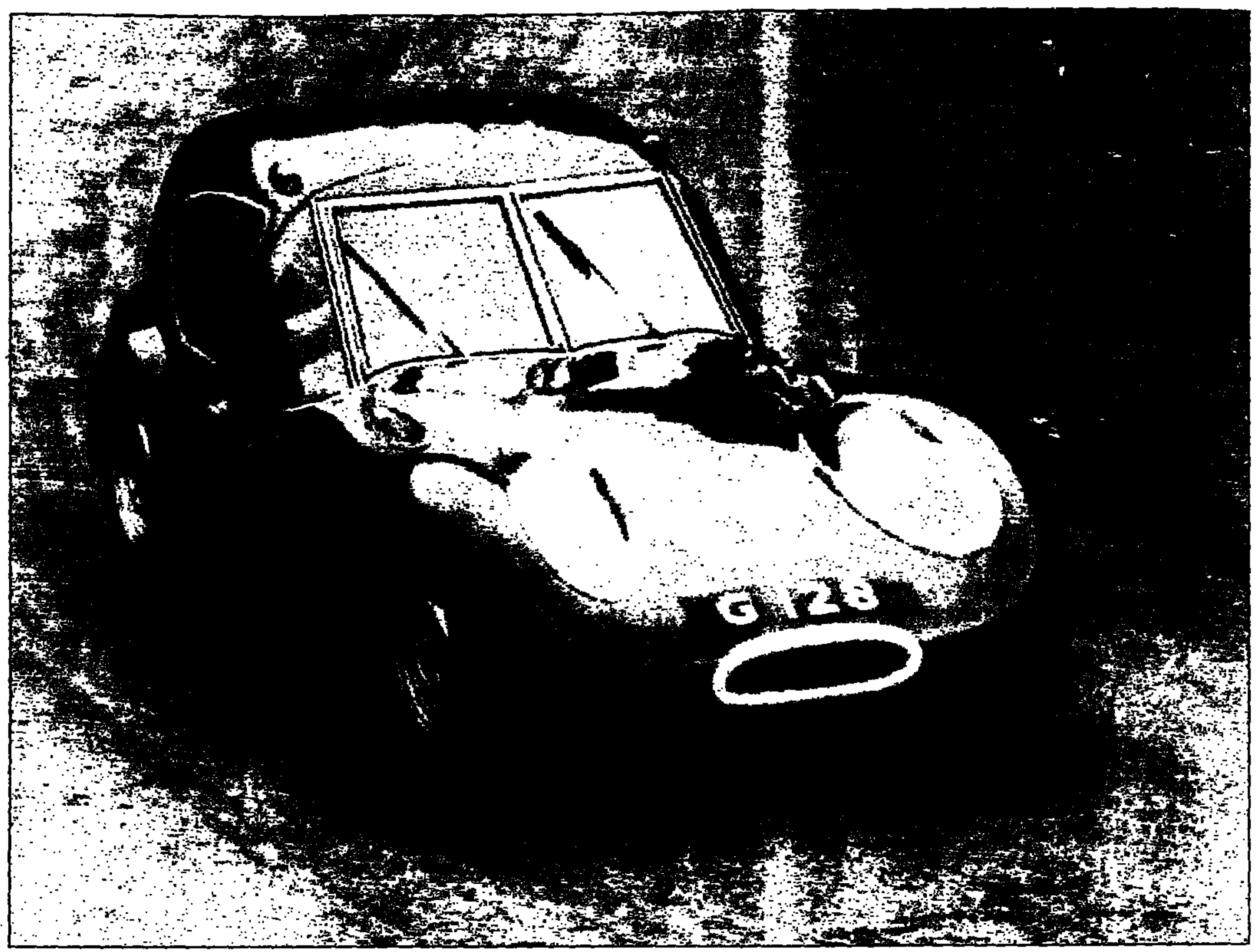
Wooden racer goes under the hammer

Alan Copps on the racing car made out of wood that took Jackie Stewart to glory


Jackie Stewart won some of his first races in this car, made of marine plywood and stuck together with glue, with an early Cosworth engine

Jem Marsh and the third Marcos he made, in 1959

What is probably the last wooden car to win a serious motor race — it was driven by three-times world champion Jackie Stewart to a number of early victories — is to be sold at auction today by the man who designed it.

Jem Marsh, founder of Marcos cars, says: "The only exams I passed at public school were English and woodwork, so it's not surprising my first cars were made of wood. It's a tremendously light and strong material.

"You can repair it quickly, too, so long as it doesn't splinter. I once got a rear wheel off the track going round Clearways corner at Brands Hatch. I spun across the wet grass, collecting all the concrete posts from a wire retaining fence, eventually knocking the back off the car. But it came off in one piece. I glued it on again in the paddock and went on to win another race."

The 1960 gullwing-doored Marcos sports racing coupé was one of the success stories of GT racing in its time. Its weird appearance, frog eyes, notch-back and four-piece windscreen, cloaked an even more peculiar chassis, a tub made of marine plywood. But the unusual construction ensured extreme light weight, and with an early Cosworth engine the car was astonishingly successful. It dominated its class until the brilliant Colin Chapman sorted out a racing version of his glassfibre Lotus Elite, a beautiful car that played swan to the Marcos's ugly duckling.

The car to be sold tonight at Brooks's auction at London's Olympia has an extraordinary history. "It's been part of my life," says Marsh. "It was the third car we made, chassis number 1003. I've had great fun racing it myself but my factory's so busy now I need the space. I'm hoping it might go to a museum."

The Marcos company, based in Westbury, Wiltshire, and still run by Marsh and his sons, is one of Britain's most successful specialist sports car manufacturers with a full order book for its current Mantara and LM models.

The car to be sold is one of only six Mk I GTs to be built. It carries an estimate of £20,000 — £25,000. "I drove it to Scotland where it was paid for by Barry Filer, a director of Courtaulds, and then delivered to Jackie Stewart when no one had heard of him outside Scotland. He'd done a few races in an Austin Healey Sprite, but he won some of his first races in this car," says Marsh.

The chassis and most of the bodywork of the car is wood, mainly 1½mm marine ply. The bonnet is made of glassfibre. The construction was pioneering at a time when even Formula One cars were still built around a space frame of steel tubing. Jackie Stewart raced it throughout 1961 and 1962 and then moved on to higher things. It was bought by Jack Gates, who entered and won nine races. Then it disappeared.

But in 1976, Jem Marsh found the car lying neglected in a garage yard. "I rebuilt it, then I started racing it myself in historic events. I've won more than 100 times in the 1300cc class." Marsh won three Historic Sports Car Club championships in the car in 1978, '80 and '84.

But the last wooden Marcos was built in 1969. The company now faces a more modern challenge: preparing a three-car team for this year's 24-hour endurance race at Le Mans. "I'm still chairman of Marcos and we're now running the team from the factory. That's my retirement job," says Marsh.

Brooks's sale starts at noon at Olympia 2, London W6 (0171-244 9494). Sotheby's sell a collection of Formula One memorabilia at New Bond Street, London W1 on Wednesday at 2pm (0171-408 5868).

DR DASHBOARD

Has the RAC changed sides?

Q Forgive me doctor. I always thought RAC meant Royal Automobile Club. Now I hear that they are taking up the cause of cyclists and pedestrians. Can this be true?

A You're right. At a conference earlier this week to celebrate the organisation's centenary, the RAC decided that *in future it should represent all road users rather than just motorists.*

Q Whatever next? Will the AA become the Anti-mobile Association? Who's going to stick up for the poor old motorist against the New Age travellers, bureaucrats and environmentalists?

A The RAC says that lots of its members walk and cycle as well as drive. And remember, the AA had its origins as a team of cyclists who warned pioneer drivers about speed traps on the London-Brighton road.

Q Well we all have to walk sometimes, but I'd rather drive any day. Does that make me old-fashioned?

A It seems so. The RAC based its decision on a poll of members that showed them strongly in favour of pedestrianisation in town centres, better public transport and more space on the roads for cyclists.

Q That sounds familiar. I seem to remember reading something along those lines in *Car 97*.

A That's true. Our own poll last week showed that very large numbers of motorists are saying the same thing. It's the result of an overwhelming concern about pollution and congestion in our cities. But we do believe in giving the motorist a say, so soon we'll be printing a selection of ideas put forward by driving advocates in our traffic debate.

Street-fashion creator Wayne Hemingway tells **Andrew Pierce** why he hates ostentatious road-users

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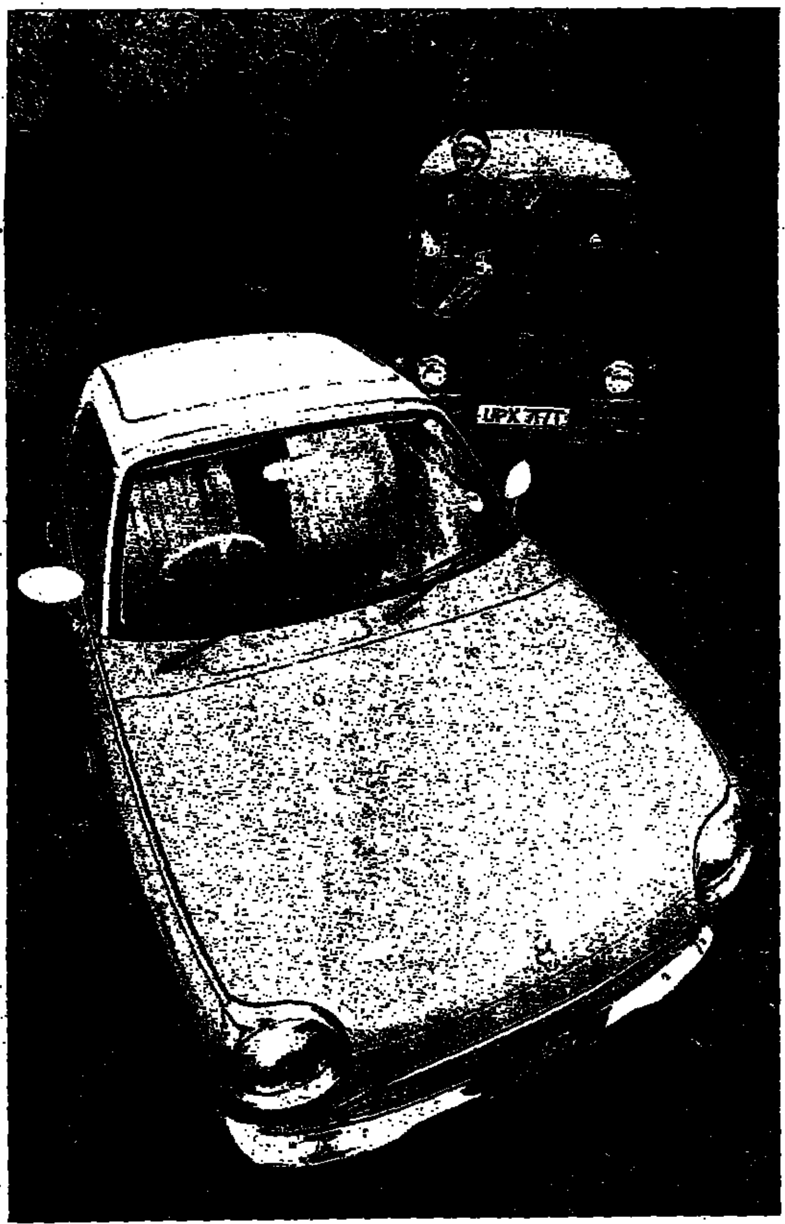
Hemingway with rag-top Land Rover and limited-edition Nissan Figaro

Wayne Hemingway, one of Britain's most successful fashion designers, will be among the star turns at London Fashion Week which opens tomorrow.

Hemingway is the creative force behind the street-wear label, Red or Dead. He founded the company 15 years ago with his wife Gerardine, selling second-hand clothes in Camden market in North London. He is now creative director and chairman of the company and a self-made millionaire.

How did you first learn to drive?

I was brought up in a pub and earned enough money to buy a car at 16. I drove it round and round the car park and took my test three days after my 17th birthday. I was convinced I had taught myself. I was wrong. I failed. I passed six weeks later, having had some real lessons.

What was your first car?

A Hillman Hunter. Followed rapidly by a bright orange Capri with bucket seats and a racing steering wheel. I crashed the Hillman on the way to school.

What car do you drive now and why?

When I am being a sensible father, I drive a Toyota Previa. For fun I have a 1950s rag-top Land Rover. I also have a limited edition Nissan Figaro which I bought in Japan.

Do you like driving?

Only if there is something good on the radio. Otherwise I find it tedious. There are far better things to do in life.

What is your most hated car?

Ostentatious status symbols such as the Rolls-Royce. It is ugly and screams out: boring old rich fart. Modern Porsches are the ultimate laughable status symbol.

What is your dream car?

One that can fly and is amphibious at the same time.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Not supporting my wife, Gerardine, when she is driving and screaming at the kids to behave. I just keep on reading a magazine.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

I love all of them. I have road happiness.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I changed a fuse on my own, only last week. This was highly unusual.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

When I was 17, doing 50mph on a 40mph urban motorway. All my mates were drunk and rowdy. The policeman was incredulous at my explanation that I had drunk four bottles of chocolate milk. He breathtested me. Then my mates gave him four empty bottles of chocolate milk. He nicked me for speeding instead.

What do you listen to in the car?

Radio 1: the evening show with Jo Wiley and Steve Lamacq. Football on Radio 5 Live.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

A dramatic increase in car tax, and road tolls that encouraged everyone who can to use a public transport system that has been improved by the levies.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The directors of the commercials seem to think that all car drivers lust after speed and regard the car as a penis extension. Unlike me.

CAR . . . TOONS

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY AUTHORISED DEALERS

91H Rolls-Royce Corniche III, Cobalt/ Parchment- Under 20T, RR Service History £89,995 Call Alan Rees on 01392 824515. Olympic (Exeter) Ltd

Wyndham of Cardiff
95 (96 Mdl) Bentley Continental R Peacock/Silver Stone, 18k £147,750
96(P) Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn Peacock Blue/Magnolia ....P.O.A.
93(L) Rolls-Royce Silver Spur Royal Blue/Magnolia, 30k ...£59,500
96(N) Bentley Turbo R Sherwood/Sandstone £99,950
92(J) Bentley Turbo R Balmoral/Champagne, 39k ..£58,500
01222 597722

Hooper Alpe
50 Marylebone, High Street, London W1M 3AD
TURBO R 90 Lt. Blue/Blue, Sunroof, 38,000 miles £43,500
MULSANNE S LWB 87 Midnight B/Magnolia, Twin H/Lamps. Exc Cond. 42,000 miles £29,500
TURBO R 86 Racing Green/Red, Superb Condition, 83,000 miles £23,500
BENTLY EIGHT 88 [illegible] 54,000 miles £23,500
Tel: 0171 935 1124

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

BENTELY 1997 CONTINENTAL R.
P reg, Royal Blue, immaculate condition, lots of extras, only 800 miles.
Call 0171 6291587 office hours, speak to MR SEATON.

CORNICHE
Convertible (1989) Unique model. Originally Rolls Royce official display car. Burgandy red with magnolia hood. Gold fittings. Offers over £55,000. No dealers.
Tel. 0171 491 3072

BENTELY 1997 TURBO R.
P reg, Racing Green, immaculate condition, lots of extras, only 5,200 miles.
Call 0171 6291587 office hours, speak to MR SEATON.

BENTLEY
Turbo R Series 2, 1990 model, Vermilion Red, Magnolia hide, piped Red, FSH, twin cocktail cabinets, twin fitted phones, electronic tracker.
£39,750.
Tel: 0589 085255 or 01403 783928

Turbo R
Agean Blue/Red hide, 1996 (Jan), stunning, over £4k MPW extras, radio, 2,400 miles. Cherished no. "EAN 3D". Cost £145K. Pvt Sale. Please fax best offer over £100K to: 01625 529638 or Tel: 01625 533707.

BENTLEY AZURE
1996, Azure blue/mag hide, piped seats, drinks cabinet, Trackback security, cost £229,000, immaculate.
£195,000
01425 403311 or 0468 474849 (m)

SPIRIT III 94 current Mod Peacock Bk FSH R-R Wrnty £59995 PX Marlow 01628 660413 T

SHADOW II
2,800 miles only, 1979, 1 owner since new, sand with beige hide, £23,000.
Tel. 0171 724 8131

TURBO R.
89, Balmoral Green, immac cond, chrome radiator, full magnolia leather with green piping. 50K.
£33,500
Tel: 01326 375462.

SILVER SPIRIT II
December 1989.
Midnight blue, grey interior, active ride.
FSH, 61,000 mls.
2 owners from new.
£24,950.
Tel 01253 732200 (office) or 01253 722214 (home).

BENTLEY 8
Cobalt Blue, Magnolia hide piped blue, leather roof lining, sports seats, 34k, FSH, pristine condition.
£32,950.
01485 572531/ 0468 [illegible]

SILVER SPIRIT
1981, Ice Green, Tan piped leather, Chaffuer driven, FRRSH, immaculate for year.
£13,500.
01792 369742

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ABSOLUTE keenest buyers of Rolls Royce & Bentley's. Bemaingdale Mtr 01344 20072

GERALD CAPPS a constant buyer of fine Rolls Royce & Bentley cars. Phone 01371 811026

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TVR

CHIMAERA
5 litre Registered Dec 96. Only 4,500 miles. Rosso red pearlescent paint with grey full leather int. Wool carpets. Air con. Htd seats. PAS. Ice warning detector. Totally unmarked car. Back injury forces sale. £38,000 to include cherished number L2 TVR.
Call David on (Southampton) 01703 229041 (work) 01703 255755 (home)

GRIFFITH
4.3, Blue, 36k, full hide int. CD, Spoke Alloys, MOT, excellent cond. £24,500.
0802 215386 D/ 0181 5059087 E.

S4
1994, 23k, Burgundy, grey lthr int, wall carpets, full TVR history.
£16,750
01476 585452.

TVR WANTED

WANTED all low mileage TVR's. [illegible] 0181 394 1114

SUZUKI

CAPPUCCINO
Convertible
1995
8,000 miles
Red
3 piece hard top
£10,500
Robert Keith Car Sales
01295 255222

VOLKSWAGEN

SAVINGS on One Day Old Volkswagen's With Delivery Miles On. Tel: 01480 812289 T

PASSAT VR6
Excl. Exc. 94. Auto, drk met. grn. full lthr int, elec pack, alloy whls, CD player, FSH, 47k mls, immac cond.
£13,950
0860 624081.

GOLF VR6
Feb 94 L reg, 5 dr, Windsor blue, 51k mls, 1 owner fr new, cloth int, fully alarmed, FSH, VAG, new tyres.
Buy if you dare!
£12,995
(d) 0181 291 5960/ (e) 0181 695 1301.

VOLKSWAGEN

PASSAT 2.0 GL Est Man, 96N, 12,500k, Indian Red, Air Con, Pwr Strg, C/Lckg, Elect/ Heated Mirrs, Radio/ Cass, Twin Air Bag, £12,795 Ex Fleet Car from Swan National 0645 260260

CORRADO VR6
94L, 45k, alarm, 1 owner, FSH.
£13,300
Mr Mitchell:
01473 270965

VR6
SC, 5dr, Black/Blue cloth, electric sunroof, FSH.
£10,750.
PHONE JOHN
01322 380191
OR
01474 704294.

POLO
1.4 CL, White. Feb'96 N, 3,200 miles, 5 yrs RAC, immaculate. £8,900.
01730 264893.

Volkswagen at Dovercourt.

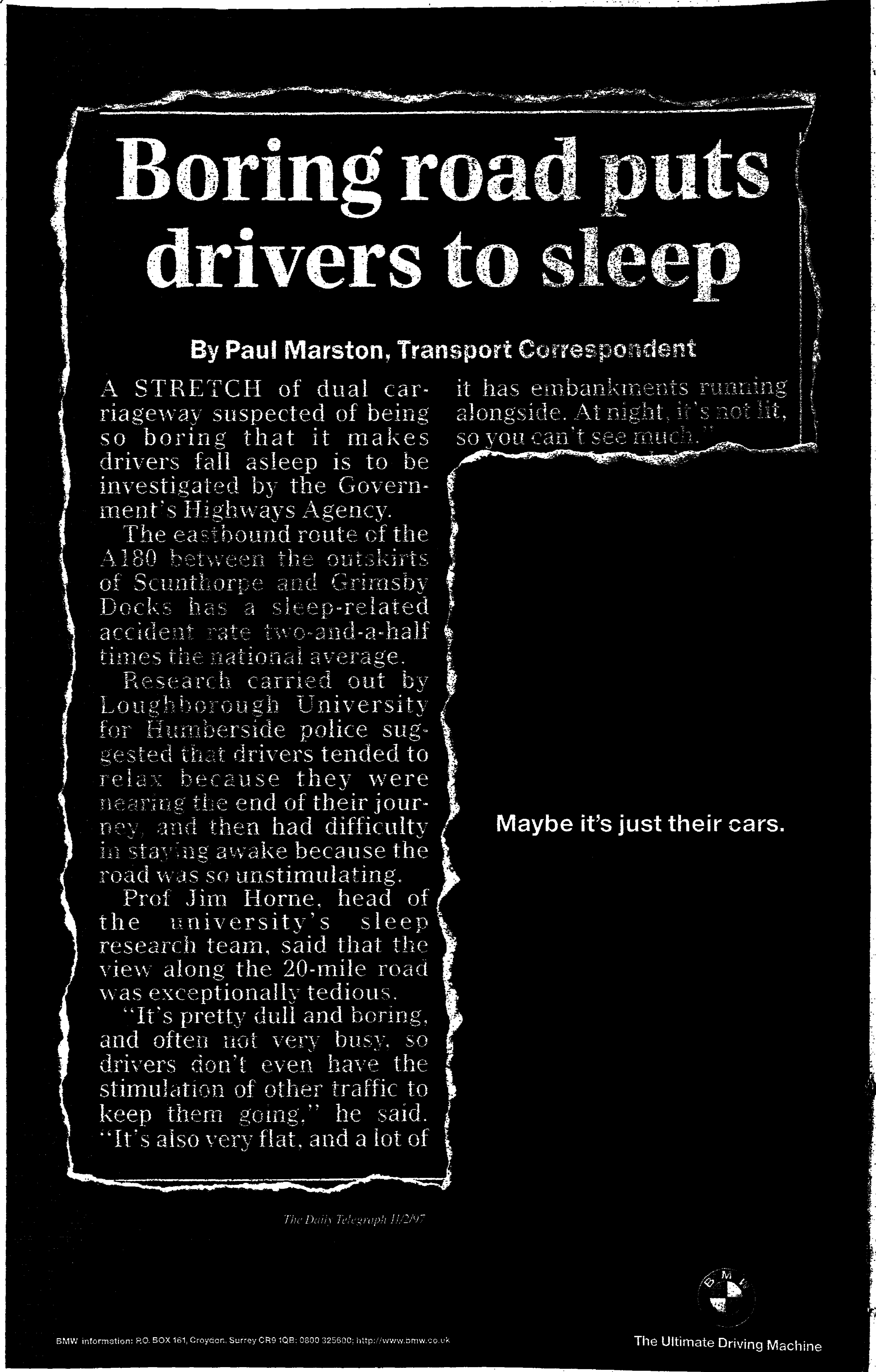
BATTERSEA
[illegible]

ST. JOHNS WOOD
[illegible]

CAR OF THE WEEK – MANAGERS CHOICE
[illegible]

Dovercourt

هكذا من الاصل



Boring road puts drivers to sleep

By Paul Marston, Transport Correspondent

A STRETCH of dual carriageway suspected of being so boring that it makes drivers fall asleep is to be investigated by the Government's Highways Agency.

The eastbound route of the A180 between the outskirts of Scunthorpe and Grimsby Docks has a sleep-related accident rate two-and-a-half times the national average.

Research carried out by Loughborough University for Humberside police suggested that drivers tended to relax because they were nearing the end of their journey, and then had difficulty in staying awake because the road was so unstimulating.

Prof Jim Horne, head of the university's sleep research team, said that the view along the 20-mile road was exceptionally tedious.

"It's pretty dull and boring, and often not very busy, so drivers don't even have the stimulation of other traffic to keep them going," he said. "It's also very flat, and a lot of it has embankments running alongside. At night, it's not lit, so you can't see much."

The Daily Telegraph 11/2/97

Maybe it's just their cars.

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